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VOLUNTEER CAVALRY.—No. XII.

THE LESSONS OF THE DECADE.

BY A VOLUNTEER CAVALRYMAN.

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BAGGAGE AND TRAINS.

In the matter of baggage and trains there is much room for improvement in our cavalry service. At present there is no distinction between a cavalry and an infantry train. One moves as slowly as the other. There are just three things which are loaded in cavalry trains, viz., food, ammunition, and baggage. The provision and forage part of the train should not be taken on raids. Great bulk and weight are necessary, and such cannot be moved rapidly.

Ammunition must be carried. So must a small quantity of baggage, but the less of this the better.

The problem becomes, then, to carry the ammunition and baggage in the smallest space and safest and most expeditious manner. Ammunition has very frequently been carried on pack mules. The plan has the advantage of requiring no wheeled vehicles, and so of being independent of bad roads. But the disadvantages of the plan outweigh its conveniences. It takes an immense number of animals, which have to be fed, and makes a long and tedious train. Since cavalry must always be accompanied by artillery, wherever a gun can go a wagon should follow. One ammunition wagon, with six mules, will carry as much as twenty-four pack mules, besides distressing the animals less. At all halts, a mule in harness rests; a pack mule has no rest till going into camp.

Wagons, then, even for raids, if of any length, being settled on, the question arises, how small can a train be made, to carry enough ammunition for a cavalry corps?

Taking a corps of cavalry at its full strength, viz., three divisions, each of three brigades of four regiments, of which the average regimental strength is about four hundred present for duty, the total service strength of such a corps is about fourteen thousand men. In a severe battle, the men being under proper control of their officers, and the latter not ammunition wasters, the consumption ought never to reach over forty rounds per man. This ratio can be adhered to with advantage, and leave the force more formidable in reality than the prodigals. Three full battles ought to be allowed for on a raid, the ammunition to be carried in wagons, the men retaining eighty rounds besides. You can thus fight five pitched battles, if necessary, before returning to the army. At 120 rounds per man, it will thus be necessary to carry about 1,700,000 rounds of ammunition in the wagons, or about seventeen wagon loads, the full corps ammunition train for a raid. The artillery should have a single ammunition wagon for each battery, at the rate of a battery to a brigade, making nine more, or twenty-six in all.

Ammunition being provided for, the baggage remains to be considered. It is a very difficult matter to deal with this, unless corps and division headquarters set the example of economy. In several raids and expeditions I have seen attempts made to cut down the baggage, beginning with regiments. Staff officers from division headquarters would come down the line of march, and pitch on to the pack mules of company officers, turning them loose, throwing off the packs, and in some instances confiscating the mules for division headquarters. Now, as long as corps and division headquarters are intumescing with a host of useless hangers on, as at present, so long will the regimental baggage be bulky.

In army administration, as in civil life, law is not always nor often justice. In too many instances it is rank injustice. If a general wishes his baggage train reduced, he must set the example himself. If he carries a dozen tents, and office furniture for a host of useless aides-de-camp, and takes six wagons for corps headquarters, four apiece for division and two for each brigade, he will have a total of thirty-six wagons of lumber, which will not do the force he commands any good whatever. The evil will be sure to spread down, and the baggage train become a terrible nuisance, every regiment having its own tail, till the whole of the pack train extends for a mile and a half.

To check this state of things, the most stringent orders are issued. Staff officers are sent to enforce the orders, and to reduce the regimental trains to the mini-

mum. Heartburnings and animosities enough arise out of this baggage business to breed a mutiny, almost. If all staff officers were gentlemen, such a duty, even in that case, would be very disagreeable to perform to both parties. But since a very small proportion of our staff officers during the late war could be said to belong to that category, it generally happened that they made their orders a pretext for making themselves as oppressive and insolent as possible to regimental officers.

The whole secret of the cumbersome baggage trains of modern armies lies in one word, luxury. The private soldier in the ranks during the war, I can testify from experience, lived in perfect comfort. Without piling a load on his horse, he managed to find a good bed, a good fire, a good supper, and a feed for his animal. An officer, if allowed by custom, might do the same. But officers are not allowed by custom to do anything for themselves. They must wait for the pack train, when their servants come up to make them comfortable. To men who have risen from the ranks the contrast is unpleasant. The higher the grade of the officer, the greater his luxury and imagined wants. A general thinks it absolutely necessary to his comfort to have two walled tents, an iron bedstead, mattresses, sheets, blankets, a silver dinner service, and an army of retainers. Every little staff officer likewise finds it necessary to have a tent and at least two servants, one for his horses, one for himself.

The adjutant, inspector, quartermaster, commissary, surgeon, and ordnance officer are all too proud to work. They have clerks detailed to do their work, while they strut about in useless idleness, imagining that they are conferring a great benefit on the service by sometimes signing their names. Some of these gentlemen may resent the description, but I have seen the inside of too many headquarters not to be confident of its general truth. A good staff officer in the field is invaluable, and principally because the article is so scarce.

Now all the excesses of a baggage train may be avoided if the general begins the reform. If he will confine himself to a single A tent during campaigns, and compel the different staff departments to do their necessary desk work all together in a single hospital tent, the same officers may well sleep in the office at nights. There are just six necessary officers on a staff, the adjutant, quartermaster, commissary, surgeon, ordnance officer, and inspector. In most cases the aides-de-camp are mere honorary gentlemen, appointed from favoritism of some kind, and most profoundly in their own way and every one else's, as low as brigade headquarters at all events. Two hospital tents ought to contain without difficulty the whole of a corps staff, with the general's A tent opening into them. The headquarters would not be near as imposing as they are at present, but the staff would be more under the general's eye, and work harder. If the detailing of clerks was abolished, the work would be better done. A staff position might not be a remarkably snug berth, as at present, but men who went on the staff would do their duty twice as well and be twice as efficient. If a single wagon contained the corps headquarters baggage, which it might easily do, matters would be much simplified. The staff and general should mess together. In the clubbing principle lies the solution of the question of the greatest comfort to all, with the smallest weight.

THE MESSING SYSTEM.

Two hospital tents and an A tent, a single mess chest and a single cook, would reduce headquarters baggage marvellously. Division are almost as heavy as corps staffs, but the personal and material of brigade headquarters may be much diminished. The adjutant, quartermaster, and commissary are about the only necessities here. Inspector-general and medical director of a division are at present nearly sinecure officers. Give them brigade work to do, and they will accomplish more and become really useful; at present they only consolidate reports and add up columns of figures. Too many papers are the grand cause of our bulky baggage train. They serve as the excuse for a vast deal of other lumber. But even having reports as they are, by adopting the clubbing system at all headquarters the baggage will be lessened to one-fifth of its present amount.

Four wagons, under the system advocated, will carry the headquarters baggage of corps and three division headquarters. Nine two-wheeled carts under the same system will be ample for brigade headquarters. The train will be reduced, and comfort, not luxury, will be augmented. At present it frequently takes an hour after the men are all comfortable in camp before the headquar-

ters train comes up. During this time the general and staff are often occupied in cursing the teamsters, as they stand about in the rain and mud, unable to obtain any sort of comfort. In the regiments the delay of officers to get their baggage is often still longer. Some of them find that the pack train has been invaded by staff officers during the day and all their store of grain and provisions gone. Now, under the messing system, the baggage may be much reduced. Two hospital tents and an A tent would hold the colonel and all the officers of a regiment. The adjutant's and quartermaster's desks can be left with the forage train.

A single two-wheeled cart could thus carry all the baggage of a regiment, including a proper mess kit. As every officer has a second horse, he should be furnished with a packsaddle to carry grain for both. At present every regiment on service has a train of forty or fifty mules, besides led horses, and the total train of a cavalry corps is nearly as numerous as the fighting horses. By the mess system a single cart supersedes the pack mules, and every officer should carry his food and clothing on his own horse. The only relief an officer's horse requires is the removal of the thirty pounds of grain. This off, the horse will be quite light enough to do all his extra work over that of the men's animals.

An officer's horse should not be loaded down like a private's; far from it. Its rider has more running about to do the higher in rank he goes. But three days' grain for two horses, although a great addition to a man's weight, is a trifle by itself. If arranged in two bags of the kind before described, it can be unloaded and loaded at all halts, to save the horses. Spare horses in this way become the least possible incumbrance and accomplish the maximum of good.

Under the messing system the retinue of servants is greatly diminished along with the train. A cook and two waiters are ample for a regimental mess. All the enlisted men detailed from the ranks in such a case are the grooms, one for each officer. Less than this cannot be allowed. An officer cannot groom two horses and attend to company duty besides; and it is better to allow the grooms to volunteer from the ranks, as they are more amenable to discipline than civilians.

In the matter of eating and drinking, the mess system affords far more comfort than the individual system. A good cook can be hired at very small expense to each officer, when all club together; provisions will cost much less; last and best, the mess system encourages esprit de corps and cordiality of feeling among officers, and a regiment is apt to work better under it.

In time of peace, and in garrison, the mess system is far from desirable. In the British army, where it prevails exclusively, it gives rise to much extravagance, and ruins many a poor man by the emulation to excel his richer comrades. But in war time, and with the mess baggage restricted to a single cart, extravagance is easily checked. The caterer should in all cases be the regimental commissary. His duties are a mere sinecure at most times, and this service would make him a useful man. Rotation of special duties is always inadvisable. The business of caterer requires experience, and who is better fitted for it than the commissary?

Now let us see the difference between a corps train on a long raid under the two plans:

TRAIN ON MESS SYSTEM.	
Ammunition train.....	17 wagons.
Corps and division headquarters.....	4 " "
	21 wagons.
Brigade headquarters (nine brigades).....	9 carts.
Regimental headquarters (thirty-six regiments).....	36 " "
	45 carts.
TRAIN ON OLD SYSTEM.	
Ammunition.....	17 wagons.
Corps headquarters.....	4 " "
Three division headquarters, at two wagons.....	6 " "
Nine brigade headquarters, at one wagon.....	9 " "
	36 wagons.
Regiments, about forty pack mules each, all told thirty-six regiments.....	1,440 mules.

The difference in length is something remarkable when the two trains are compared. A six-mule wagon occupies about sixty feet in column, allowing for intervals. A train on the mess system, allowing twenty-five feet each for the carts, a liberal allowance, would measure in single file seven hundred and ninety-five yards, not quite half a mile. On the present system the wagons alone measure seven hundred and twenty yards, the mules in column of fours, at five yards apiece, nineteen hundred yards more; a total of two thousand six hundred and twenty yards, or about a mile and a half.

In moving single brigades the difference is still more striking, five carts being all the baggage train, instead

of the present string of sore-backed mules. In comfort of lodging the difference is equally marked. Two hospital tents will hold all the officers of a regiment with perfect ease, as they already hold in hospital twice as many wounded men in comfort and coolness.

The ample hospital tent, perfectly water-proof, is far better to sleep in than a shelter tent, which is all that our officers carried on active service. Thus it will be seen that by a wise use of the clubbing principle, for officers, the baggage train of an army can be reduced to less than one third its present length, with an increase in solid comfort in three important points, viz.: 1st. Quickness of camping; 2d. A dry tent; 3d. Good food. The loss is in individual freedom, a restraint that will be found very useful among young officers, as tending to the suppression of ungentelemanly and boyish tricks, by the tacit veto of polite society.

The colonel's tent should be alone, however. He must not mix too freely with his officers, except at mess. Familiarity breeds contempt. The other field officers I have not provided for, simply because, in any common-sense improvement of the cavalry, it will be expedient to abolish the lieutenant-colonel and two of the majors. In the three-battalion system adopted during the war, the three majors were very good theoretically; practically, they were dummies in most cases.

THE ARMY.

GENERAL ORDERS—SERIES OF 1871.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
WASHINGTON, March 22, 1871. }

General Orders No. 34.

The following act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned:

AN ACT ceding certain land in the village of Mackinaw, Michigan, to E. A. Franks.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and required to grant and convey to E. A. Franks, of the village of Mackinaw, in the State of Michigan, all the right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a certain tract or lot of land in said village upon which stands the Mission House, so called, and surrounding the same and joining private property on the west and south, containing sixteen acres more or less, upon payment into the Treasury of the United States the value thereof, as shall be ascertained by an appraisal under a commission for that purpose, to be appointed by the Secretary of War.

Approved March 2, 1871.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending April 3, 1871.

Tuesday, March 28.

PARAGRAPH 1, Special Orders No. 371, December 22, 1870, from this office, directing a stoppage against the pay of Captain Walter Clifford, unassigned (now Seventh Infantry), of \$23 18, the value of one saddle and one bridle issued to him by Colonel D. S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, in May, 1870, and for which he had failed to account, is hereby revoked, the articles having been turned over to and receipted for by Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. Hayman, Seventeenth Infantry.

Leave of absence for six months, with permission to go beyond the sea, to take effect at such time as the commanding general Department of the Missouri may indicate, is hereby granted Second Lieutenant L. H. Orleman, Tenth Cavalry.

On the recommendation of the regimental commander, Second Lieutenant John S. Bishop, Thirteenth Infantry, is hereby transferred from Company B to Company G of that regiment, and will join his proper company, at his own expense, without delay.

On the mutual application of the officers concerned, approved by the regimental commander, the following transfers in the Fourth Infantry are hereby announced: Second Lieutenant Butler D. Price, from Company F to Company G; Second Lieutenant Theodore E. True, from Company G to Company F. The officers thus transferred will join their proper companies without delay.

Upon receipt of this order, Superintendent Morris Keim (recently appointed) will proceed without delay to Nashville, Tennessee, and assume charge of the national cemetery at that place.

Upon the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, the following changes in the stations and duties of officers of the Corps of Engineers are hereby made: Major D. C. Houston, to relieve Colonel J. N. Macomb of the survey and improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, and to move his station and office from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Chicago, Illinois. Major H. M. Robert, in addition to his present duties under the Light-house Board, to relieve Major G. H. Mendell of the charge of the works for the defence of the mouth of the Columbia river, and Major R. S. Williamson of the charge of the improvement of the Willamette and Umpqua rivers, and to take his station at Portland, Oregon. Major William E. Merrill, in charge of the improvement of the Ohio river and other duties, will change his station and office from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Cincinnati, Ohio. Major Walter McFarland, upon being relieved of his present duties by Captain George L. Gillespie, to proceed, with the assistants ordered to report to him, to the northern parts of Alabama and Georgia for the purpose of making certain surveys in that region, and also to relieve Colonel J. H. Simpson of the charge of the Coosa river, Alabama, and Major G. Weitzel of the survey and improvement of the Tennessee river. Captain George L. Gillespie, in addition to his present

duties under the Light-house Board to relieve M. J. Walter McFarland of the charge of all works, examinations, and surveys now in his hands. Captain Jared A. Smith, to be relieved from duty upon the survey of the northern and northwestern lakes, and to report to Major O. M. Poe for duty under his immediate orders. Captain S. M. Mansfield, as soon as he shall have completed the reduction of Company D, Battalion of Engineers, and reported at Willet's Point, New York, with the enlisted men of that company, to proceed to New York city and report to Lieutenant-Colonel John Newton for duty under his immediate orders. First Lieutenant M. R. Brown, to proceed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and report for duty to Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Kurtz. First Lieutenant William H. Heuer, to be relieved from duty with Major R. S. Williamson, and to proceed to Willet's Point, New York, and report for duty to the commanding officer of the Battalion of Engineers. First Lieutenant James F. Gregory, to be relieved from duty with Company D, Battalion of Engineers, and to report at Painesville, Ohio, to Major McFarland for duty under his immediate orders. First Lieutenant Benjamin D. Greene, to be relieved from duty with Major John M. Wilson, and to report at Painesville, Ohio, to Major McFarland for duty under his immediate orders. First Lieutenant Clinton B. Sears, to be relieved from duty in the Department of the Columbia, and to report to Major G. H. Mendell for duty under his immediate orders. Second Lieutenant Edward Maguire, upon the arrival of Lieutenant Heuer at Willet's Point, to be relieved from duty with the Battalion of Engineers, and to proceed to Detroit, Michigan, and report for duty to Major C. B. Comstock. Second Lieutenant Charles F. Powell, upon the arrival of Lieutenant Willard at Willet's Point, to be relieved from duty with Battalion of Engineers, and to proceed to Detroit, Michigan, and report for duty to Major C. B. Comstock. Brevet Second Lieutenant J. H. Willard, to proceed to Willet's Point, New York, and report to the commanding officer for duty with the Battalion of Engineers.

The telegraphic order of the 27th instant, from this office, directing Second Lieutenant Henry W. Hubbell, Jr., First Artillery, to report to Colonel Davis, superintendent General Recruiting Service, New York city, to conduct recruits, is hereby confirmed. Upon completion of this duty he will rejoin his proper station.

Wednesday, March 29.

The General of the Army will on the 4th of April, 1871, start on a tour of inspection of the frontiers of Texas, the Indian Territory, Kansas, and Nebraska, going out via St. Louis, Missouri, Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana, to San Antonio, Texas, thence westward and northward along the line of posts to Nebraska, and thence back to Washington City, D. C. Colonel R. B. Marcy, Inspector-General of the Army, and Colonels J. C. McCoy and J. E. Tourtellotte, aides-de-camp, will accompany him.

The superintendent General Recruiting Service (Western Division), Newport Barracks, Kentucky, will forward, under proper charge, in detachments of convenient size, two hundred recruits from those which are or may from time to time become disposable at the depot to Omaha, Nebraska, where they will be reported, upon arrival, to the commanding general Department of the Platte for assignment to the Fourteenth Infantry.

Leave of absence for four months on surgeon's certificate of disability, with permission to go beyond the limits of Department of the Missouri, is hereby granted Second Lieutenant Harrison S. Weeks, Eighth Cavalry.

Thursday, March 30.

So much of paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 345, December 6, 1870, from this office, as discharged First Lieutenant George W. Smith, unassigned, is hereby amended to omit the words "he will be allowed under section 24 of the act approved July 15, 1870, ten cents per mile," and to allow him travelling allowances.

First Lieutenant James M. J. Sanno, Seventh Infantry, is hereby relieved from his present duties, and will report in person without delay to the superintendent General Recruiting Service at New York city for temporary duty at depot, Fort Columbus.

On his own application, approved by the regimental commander, Second Lieutenant P. Henry Ray, Eighth Infantry, is hereby transferred from Company D to Company H of that regiment.

Leave of absence for six months, with permission to go beyond the sea, is hereby granted Second Lieutenant Thomas P. O'Reilly, Twenty-second Infantry.

The following officers of the Corps of Engineers are hereby authorized to draw pay in advance for the months of May, June, and July, 1871: First Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, First Lieutenant D. W. Lockwood.

So much of Special Orders No. 318, November 18, 1870, from this office, as [discharged Superintendent J. Nutting, National Cemetery at Fayetteville, Arkansas, is hereby amended to take effect February 14, 1871, he having rendered service to that date.

Captain Henry W. Jones, assistant quartermaster, is hereby assigned to duty at Portland, Oregon, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of the Columbia for assignment to the duties from which he was relieved by paragraph 3 of General Orders No. 5, February 21, 1871, headquarters Department of the Columbia.

The telegraphic order of the 29th instant, from this office, directing Lieutenant-Colonel Granger, superintendent General Recruiting Service, Newport Barracks, Kentucky, to relieve First Lieutenant G. W. H. Stouch, Third Infantry, temporarily from his present duties and order him to attend the meeting of a General Court-martial at Fort Dodge, Kansas, is hereby confirmed. As soon as his presence can be dispensed with by the court he will return to Newport Barracks, Kentucky, and report for duty.

Leave of absence for six months on surgeon's certificate of disability is hereby granted Major Joseph A. Potter, quartermaster U. S. Army.

Upon the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Myers, deputy quar-

termaster-general, is hereby relieved from his duties at New Orleans, Louisiana, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of the Missouri for assignment at Santa Fé, New Mexico, as chief quartermaster District of New Mexico.

Leave of absence for sixty days is hereby granted Captain J. S. McNaught, Twentieth Infantry.

[No Special Orders were issued from the Adjutant-General's Office on Saturday, April 1.]

Monday, April 3.

Brigadier-General A. B. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, will proceed to St. Louis, Missouri, on public business. On completion of this duty he will return to his station in this city.

The leave of absence granted Captain H. G. Thomas, Twentieth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 36, February 23, 1871, from headquarters Department of Dakota, is hereby extended sixty days.

ARMY PERSONAL.

HOSPITAL Steward William Myers, U. S. Army, was assigned to duty April 1 at Fort Wayne.

THE leave of absence granted Captain H. A. Du Pont, Fifth Artillery, from headquarters Department of the East, was extended five days April 4.

FIRST Lieutenant Edward B. Hubbard, Second Artillery, was ordered March 25 to Fort Cape Disappointment, W. T., to report for duty with his company.

THE leave of absence granted Acting Assistant Surgeon F. S. Stirling, U. S. Army, from headquarters Department of Arizona, was extended sixty days March 23.

LEAVE of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply for an extension of ten days, was granted First Lieutenant John L. Worden, Jr., First Infantry, March 30.

SECOND Lieutenant W. T. Craycroft, Seventh Cavalry, was ordered March 29 to proceed without delay to Louisville, Kentucky, and report to the commanding officer of his regiment.

LEAVE of absence for thirty days, to date from April 1, 1871, with permission to apply to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri for an extension of thirty days, was granted Major G. W. Schofield, Tenth Cavalry, March 27.

UPON the completion of the duties assigned him in paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 50, current series, from the headquarters Department of Dakota, Major Rodney Smith, paymaster U. S. Army, will proceed to and take post at Sioux City, Iowa.

LEAVE of absence for twenty-two days was granted First Lieutenant Luigi Lomia, Fifth artillery, March 29, from headquarters Department of the East, to take effect on the final adjournment of the General Court-martial of which he is a member.

LEAVE of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply to the Adjutant-General of the Army, through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, for an extension of ninety days, was granted First Lieutenant C. E. Nordstrom, Tenth Cavalry, March 23.

LEAVE of absence for thirty days was granted Captain L. H. Sanger, Seventeenth Infantry, March 24, with permission to apply through the proper channels for an extension of three months. This leave to take effect when the second lieutenant joins his company.

By authority from the War Department, the order relieving Captain John H. Belcher, assistant quartermaster U. S. Army, from duty as depot quartermaster at Omaha, Nebraska, and instructs him to report by letter to the Adjutant-General of the Army, is revoked.

Two reliable non-commissioned officers, armed with improved Sharps carbines and Colt's pistols, were detailed March 23 to report to Major James H. Nelson, paymaster U. S. Army, to accompany him through Arizona, he having been ordered to pay the troops in that department.

CAPTAIN James Biddle, First Cavalry, having reported at his regimental headquarters, in compliance with General Orders, was ordered March 20 to report to the commanding officer Benicia Barracks for temporary duty until the arrival of his company from the Department of Arizona.

CAPTAIN Henry Clayton, Seventeenth Infantry, First Lieutenant L. M. O'Brien, Seventeenth Infantry, and Second Lieutenant G. S. L. Ward, Twenty-second Infantry, were relieved March 23 from temporary duty at Fort Snelling, Minn., and ordered to proceed without delay to join their proper stations.

LEAVE of absence for ten days, to take effect from April 10, was granted Major W. A. Rucker, paymaster U. S. Army, March 29; and leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri for an extension of thirty days, to Captain John H. Page, Third Infantry.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL Roger Jones, assistant inspector-general, Military Division of the Pacific, was ordered March 20 to proceed to Sacramento, to secure information in relation to certain transactions he has been directed to investigate and report upon, and to make an inspection of the depots at Yuma and Tucson, A. T., and to investigate matters specially referred to him at Camp Crittenden and Mojave, A. T.

THE following officers were registered at headquarters Department of the East for the week ending April 4, 1871: First Lieutenant A. P. Greene, Fourth Artillery; Captain A. D. Palmer, Fourth Artillery; Second Lieutenant J. W. Bean, Fifteenth Infantry; Major Walter McFarland, Corps of Engineers; Surgeon Madison Mills, U. S. Army; Surgeon B. A. Clements, U. S. Army; Captain W. O'Connell, Fourth Cavalry.

ACTING Assistant Surgeon T. B. Chase, U. S. Army, was ordered March 27 to proceed to Fort Reynolds, C. T., and report to the commanding officer of that post for duty, to relieve Assistant Surgeon George McC. Miller,

U. S. Army, who will comply with paragraph 7, Special Orders No. 100, current series, War Department, Adjutant-General's office. Acting Assistant Surgeon J. H. Collins, U. S. Army, was ordered March 27 to return to Fort Harker, Kansas, and resume his duties at that post.

A GENERAL Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Wayne, Michigan, April 4. Detail for the court: Lieutenant-Colonel P. Lugenbeel, First Infantry; Captain I. D. De Russy, First Infantry; Captain Kinzie Bates, First Infantry; Captain Fergus Walker, First Infantry; First Lieutenant R. G. Heiner, First Infantry; Second Lieutenant Charles A. Booth, First Infantry; Second Lieutenant J. Sumner Rogers, First Infantry. First Lieutenant Allen Smith, adjutant First Infantry, judge-advocate.

THE proceedings of the garrison Court-martial convened at Fort Foote, Maryland, March 27, in the case of Private Thomas Brown, Company F, Fourth Artillery, are set aside because of the contradiction between the charge and the specification. The charge is "drunkenness on duty," while the specification sets forth that the accused was under arrest at the time of his intoxication. The proceedings of the same court in the case of Private Richard Pauli are also set aside, because of a fatal defect in the record, it not appearing that the members of the court were sworn.

BEFORE A General Court-martial which convened at the headquarters building in San Francisco, California, March 8, and of which Colonel O. B. Wilcox, Twelfth Infantry, is president, First Lieutenant Thomas D. Maurice, Second Artillery, was tried on the charge of "Neglect of duty, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," and acquitted. The specification alleged that the accused, being on duty as officer of the day, did fail to comply with a well-known order of the post, which requires that "the officer of the day will personally see that all the prisoners are locked up at retreat," and that in consequence a prisoner made his escape.

In order to comply with General Orders No. 7, War Department, the orders from headquarters District of New Mexico, announcing First Lieutenant John Lafferty, Eighth Cavalry, acting assistant adjutant-general of this district, and First Lieutenant Edmund Luff, Eighth Cavalry, acting assistant adjutant-general, are revoked; and until further orders, First Lieutenant John Lafferty, Eighth Cavalry, will perform the duties of acting assistant adjutant-general, District of New Mexico, and First Lieutenant Edmund Luff, Eighth Cavalry, will remain on duty at these headquarters, commanding detachment of guards, orderlies, and escorts.

A GENERAL Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Monroe, Virginia, March 29. Detail for the court: Major G. A. De Russy, Third Artillery; Captain E. R. Warner, Third Artillery; Captain J. W. Piper, Fifth Artillery; First Lieutenant J. R. Kelly, Third Artillery; First Lieutenant G. V. Weir, Fifth Artillery; First Lieutenant J. C. White, First Artillery; Second Lieutenant W. Stanton, Second Artillery; Second Lieutenant S. W. Taylor, Fourth Artillery; Second Lieutenant C. W. Hobbs, Third Artillery. Second Lieutenant N. Wolfe, Second Artillery, judge-advocate.

A GENERAL Court-martial was appointed to meet at David's Island, New York Harbor, March 20. Detail for the court: Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Wallen, Eighth Infantry; Captain H. M. Lazelle, Eighth Infantry; Captain J. F. Ritter, Eighth Infantry; Captain J. J. Van Horn, Eighth Infantry; Captain G. M. Brayton, Eighth Infantry; Captain W. S. Worth, Eighth Infantry; First Lieutenant E. B. Savage, Eighth Infantry; First Lieutenant C. F. Loche, Eighth Infantry; First Lieutenant F. A. Whitney, Eighth Infantry; First Lieutenant F. T. Adams, Eighth Infantry; First Lieutenant S. Craig, Eighth Infantry; Second Lieutenant J. E. McHyde, Eighth Infantry; Second Lieutenant E. Lynch, Eighth Infantry. Second Lieutenant J. E. Bell, First Artillery, judge-advocate.

A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, May 1, for the trial of First Lieutenant James E. Batchelder, Second Cavalry, and such other prisoners as may be properly brought before it. Detail for the court: Colonel T. L. Crittenden, Seventeenth Infantry; Lieutenant Colonel E. S. Otis, Twenty-second Infantry; Lieutenant Colonel L. C. Boates, Twenty-fifth Infantry; Captain J. C. Bates, Twentieth Infantry; Captain John Hartley, Twenty-second Infantry; Captain William Fletcher, Twentieth Infantry; Captain A. A. Harbach, Twentieth Infantry; First Lieutenant W. S. McCaskey, Twentieth Infantry; First Lieutenant L. M. Morris, Twentieth Infantry; First Lieutenant L. E. Campbell, Twenty-second Infantry. Major G. N. Lieber, judge-advocate U. S. Army, judge-advocate.

AN enlisted man writes to us from Hualpai, Arizona, to say that "at no post affected by the recent muster-out of Army officers, and the consequent severance of official and social ties, could the promulgation of General Order No. 1, current series, from the War Department, have caused more genuine sorrow than here, when it was known that First Lieutenant Lambert L. Mulford, Third Cavalry, was one of those mustered out of the service. If there is a grain of truth in the adage 'What every one says must be true,' Lieutenant Mulford was a universal favorite with the enlisted men of his troop (G), and with those at this post, where he has been acting assistant quartermaster and acting commissary of subsistence for the past seven months. Among his brother officers Mr. Mulford was respected for his integrity and unblemished character; and socially, he was the life and soul of the post. Prior to his departure our post commander complimented him highly in printed orders which found an echo in the breast of all."

THE Chicago Republican of Friday, March 31, says: First Lieutenant D. G. Fenno, of the Seventeenth Infantry, U. S. Army, and acting post commissary at Grand River Agency, Dakota Territory, with his wife and sister arrived on Monday in this city and engaged rooms at the Sherman. After partaking of his dinner,

Fenno requested a blank check, and filling it out for \$500, asked the clerk to send it to the depository for collection. The clerk did as requested, and the messenger soon returned with the check and a note requesting the Lieutenant to call at the depository. Fenno did so at once, and found that his neglect to present in person his check and authority for drawing it was the reason payment was refused. Settling the preliminaries to the satisfaction of the cashier, he received the \$500 and departed. About eight o'clock on the same evening he visited a house on Randolph street to try his luck at cards. He was in a highly intoxicated condition. He sat down at the dealing table and invested a ten-dollar greenback; he won. Again and again did the X go in and yield a rich harvest. He won upward of a \$150, and then his luck changed. He came out loser in several deals, and his pile was reduced to \$60. On the following morning (Wednesday) his sister departed for home, and her bill was charged up to her brother's account. It would appear that Fenno remembered his previous night's debauch, for, with an evident intention to win back all he had lost at the Dearborn street establishment, he revisited that place shortly after dinner, having several hundred dollars in his possession.

He was perfectly sober at the time, and drank but sparingly during the entire afternoon. His first venture was \$10; he won, and next time lost. In a few moments his losses amounted to upwards of \$100. He then doubled the stake, and the same luck attended him. He would win occasionally but not often. In an hour he had lost all the ready money he had with him, \$460. Calling for a blank check he filled it out for \$1,000 on the United States Depository. This check was given to an attendant, who shortly afterwards returned with the money. Fenno now went in with "big" money—as high as \$300 on a deal. His losses continued, and by 4 o'clock every dollar of the \$1,000 was lost. Becoming desperate, Fenno finally filled out a check on the depository for \$2,000, and, being too late to draw it then, it was taken for its full value by the dealer, who was satisfied of its worth by Fenno's statement of the position he held. At 7 o'clock Fenno arose from the table without a dollar, the loser of \$3,460.

Major-General Hartsuff, commandant of the department in General Sheridan's absence, sent for Fenno yesterday morning, and ordered him to immediately report himself under arrest to the commanding general at St. Paul, Minnesota, that being the headquarters of his department. He stated his family as being wealthy and prominent persons in Wheeling, Va., and that they would help him out of his present difficulties. All the money he lost was Government funds, but as he was obliged to give bonds when appointed a commissary the Government will probably not suffer.

A COURT of inquiry, of which Colonel William H. Emory, Fifth Cavalry, is president, and Captain George B. Russell, Ninth Infantry, aide-de-camp, judge-advocate, was convened at Omaha Barracks on March 11, 1871, upon the application of Second Lieutenant J. H. Smallwood, Second Cavalry, to investigate his conduct in connection with the killing of Private Thomas Hefty, Company G, Fourteenth Infantry, on the 7th of March, 1871, and to report the facts in the case with their opinion and recommendation. The court find that on the night in question, Lieutenant Smallwood was on duty as officer of the guard at Omaha Barracks, Nebraska; that it was the night following the payment of the nine companies there stationed; that from 9 p. m. until 2 a. m. there was great disorder about the garrison; that the saloons outside the reservation were the scenes of great disorder and drunkenness and the frequent discharge of firearms; that the officer of the day had especially enjoined upon the officer of the guard the duty of preventing all disturbance and noise, on account of the failure (previously on the same day) of an individual member of the guard to fire upon a prisoner attempting to escape; that there had been a disposition among the rioters to evade the guard, and escape from it while attempting to arrest them; that between 12 midnight and 1 o'clock a. m. on the 7th of March, Lieutenant Smallwood, hearing a noise, went out the central gate, with a corporal of the guard, and, proceeding toward the north gate, saw two men running toward the fence surrounding the garrison; that he was within thirty or forty yards of the men; that he ordered the men twice in a distinct tone to "Halt;" that the men failing to halt as directed, he, Lieutenant Smallwood, fired at them, and wounded Private Thomas Hefty, late of Company G, Fourteenth Infantry, from the effects of which wound the said Hefty died on the evening of the same day, the 7th of March, 1871. And the court is of "the opinion that Second Lieutenant J. H. Smallwood, Second Cavalry, is in no way to be blamed for his action in the matter, but that his action was a proper discharge of duty under the circumstances, and do respectfully give as their opinion that no further proceedings are necessary." In publishing the finding of the court, Brigadier-General Augur, commanding Department of the Platte, says: "There can be no doubt, after a study of the testimony, that there prevailed at the time among a portion of the garrison a dangerous degree of insubordination and violence which might, and probably would have spread and become alarming in character, but for the sternest enforcement of discipline at the hands of the officers of the command. In his conduct as officer of the guard, Lieutenant Smallwood seems to have carried out with energy and fidelity the orders of the officer of the day. In the act which resulted in the death of Private Hefty, he did that which a strict necessity called for—that which, if neglected, would have exposed him to the just accusation of incompetency."

"The action of the court in acquitting Lieutenant Smallwood of responsibility is concurred in and approved by the commanding general. No further proceedings will be taken in the matter."

THE following reservations for military purposes in the harbor of San Francisco, Cal., are announced: Red Rock, known also as Molate Island, containing 7-52 acres more or less; the islands called the Brothers, in the bay of San Francisco; the islands called the Sisters, in the bay of San Pablo; the Marin islands, in the bay of San Francisco.

COMPANY D of the Fourth Infantry, en route for Paducah, Ky., arrived at St. Louis March 24, for service in Kentucky and Tennessee.

CHANGES OF STATIONS.

The following is a list of the changes of stations of troops reported at the War Department since last report:

Company G, First Cavalry, from San Francisco, Cal., to Beneda Barracks, Cal., March 18. Ordered.
Company O, Eighth Cavalry, from Fort Bayard, N. M., to Fort Selden, N. M., March 11. Ordered.
Company I, Eighth Cavalry, from Fort Selden, N. M., to Fort Bayard, N. M., March 11. Ordered.
Headquarters Fourth Infantry established at Frankfort, Ky., March 24. This regiment was lately on duty in the Department of the Platte.
Company A, Fourth Infantry, assigned to duty at Lexington, Ky., March 29. This regiment was lately on duty in the Department of the Platte.
Company B, Fourth Infantry, assigned to duty at Mount Vernon, Ky., March 29. This regiment was lately on duty in the Department of the Platte.
Company C, Fourth Infantry, assigned to duty at Lancaster, Ky., March 22. This regiment was lately on duty in the Department of the Platte.
Company E, Fourth Infantry, assigned to duty at Mount Sterling, Ky., March 29. This regiment was lately in the Department of the Platte.
Company F, Fourth Infantry, assigned to duty at Elizabethtown, Ky., March 25. This regiment was lately on duty in the Department of the Platte.
Company H, Fourth Infantry, assigned to duty at Louisville, Ky., March 29. This regiment was lately on duty in the Department of the Platte.
Company I, Fourth Infantry, assigned to duty at Lebanon, Ky., March 22. This regiment was lately on duty in the Department of the Platte.
Company K, Eighteenth Infantry, from Unionville, S. C., to Laurensville, S. C., March 31. Ordered.
No change in headquarters or stations of companies of artillery reported since March 27.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movements of officers or vessels.

VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

THE United States steamer *Congress* was reported at Samana March 23.

THE United States store-ship *Relief* has arrived safely at Philadelphia.

THE United States ship *Mayflower* arrived at Vera Cruz from Coatzacoalcas on the 20th inst.

THE United States flag-ship *Congress* and the school-ship *Mercury* were at St. Thomas April 5.

MAJOR Thomas S. English, U. S. Marine Corps (retired), died on the 26th of March at Boston, Mass. Major English was the veteran officer of the corps, having entered the naval service in 1817—two years earlier than Lieutenant-Colonel Ward Marston. He was appointed from the State of Massachusetts.

A SUMMARY court-martial convened March 21, A. M., at the Marine Barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y., for the trial of Sergeant Bradley, and such others as might be brought before it. The following officers compose the court, viz.: Geo. M. Welles, first lieutenant U. S. M. C., senior member; E. R. Robinson, first lieutenant U. S. M. C., member; S. K. Allen, second lieutenant U. S. M. C., member; Jno. D. Smyser, second lieutenant U. S. M. C., recorder.

A MARINE retiring board convened at the Brooklyn Barracks on the 20th of March. The detail is: Major William B. Slack, U. S. Marine Corps, president; Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel John L. Broome, U. S. Marine Corps, and Surgeons George Peck and Henry M. Wells, U. S. Navy, and Captain and Brevet Major P. R. Fendall, U. S. Marine Corps, members; and First Lieutenant William B. Remey, U. S. Marine Corps, judge-advocate.

THE United States steamship *Ossipee*, with Commodore McDougal on board, arrived at Panama March 21, from Callao. The sloop of war *Jamestown* also arrived from the same port on the night of the 17th. This latter vessel will proceed to San Miguel to relieve the United States steamship *Resaca* on the exploring expedition. The United States steamer *Nipsic* left Aspinwall on the other side for the Atrato river. The *Ossipee* is likely to remain at Panama for two or three weeks. She is not engaged on the surveying expedition. General good health is reported on the ships on both sides.

THE United States frigate *Tennessee* left Key West at noon on Thursday, March 23, and reached Charleston early on the Sunday following. After landing the Commissioners, she at once set sail for New York. She was much delayed by a succession of northerly gales. She reached the Quarantine ground, New York Harbor, at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, the 1st inst., and dropped anchor off the Battery in the North river. She will proceed down the Bay to Ellis's island to discharge her powder, and will then go into the Navy-yard for repairs to her engine. The following was tendered to Captain Temple when the Commissioners left the *Tennessee* at Charleston:

The Commissioners of the United States to Santo Domingo, before leaving the *Tennessee*, desire to place on their minutes the following memorandum:

We feel in duty bound to record our hearty thanks to Captain Wm. G. Temple, of the United States steamer *Tennessee*, for the admirable manner in which he has discharged the many and difficult duties imposed upon him in connection with our mission. His foresight in planning the different parts of the voyage so that the greatest advantage could be taken of all the time at our disposal, his skill and prudence in the management of his ship, his poise in regard to everything of substantial importance, and his independence of mere formalities, his tact in dealing with many difficulties which, arising from the unexpected number of persons of different aims and pursuits embarked in his ship, and which, under a commander of less fitting quality, might have led to constant ill-feeling, and his courtesy under all circumstances, have earned both our gratitude and respect, and it is with pleasure that we here record our sincere thanks to him and our best wishes for his welfare.

B. F. WADSWORTH,
ANDREW G. WHITE,
SAMUEL G. HOWE.

By order of the Commission: ALLAN A. BURTON, Secretary.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Herald*, writing from Hiogo, Japan, January 25, 1871, gives this further account of the accident on board the *Colorado*, which was referred to in our naval news last week: "The U. S. steam frigate *Colorado*, after lying at anchor here two weeks, was about to proceed to sea yesterday on her re-

turn to Nagasaki, but the wind being unfavorable her departure was delayed and a portion of the day devoted to the usual exercises on board a man-of-war. During the progress of these a serious accident occurred resulting in the death of one man and the severe wounding of two others. It seems that about two o'clock the order was given, "Down lower yards," and the men were exercised at lowering and raising the mainyard. While doing so the gearfall, a large rope on which came the strain of the weight of the mainyard (about fifteen tons), broke just as the yard had been raised to its place and was about to be secured. The yard, falling from near the maintop, struck the ship's sides with such force as to crush them in over the ports where it fell and to break off the starboard arm of the yard. Of two men who were on the yard at the time the rope broke—Joseph Ward, gunner's mate, and Gerard Eysen, quarter gunner—Eysen was instantly killed, his head being crushed in by his fall, and Ward was severely bruised and had some ribs broken, but is considered to be in a fair way to recover. John Smithy, quarter gunner, who was attending the rope in the top, had his right arm broken off just above the elbow by being caught by the rope in its rapid descent. He was quickly lowered from the top by being swung in ropes and taken to the sick bay, where his arm was amputated. At last reports he was doing well. So the *Colorado* departs in sadness, having buried two of her number here—F. L. Bryan, mate, who died on the way up, January 6, and was buried here January 8, the day of her arrival, and Gerard Eysen, quarter gunner, killed so suddenly and unexpectedly by the unfortunate accident of yesterday. The *Colorado* is the largest man-of-war that has ever visited this port. Her presence here has had a favorable effect. It has shown the ruling classes, daimios, and others, that the United States Government is both able and willing to protect its citizens here as well as in China. Both there and here in Japan it is the ruling classes alone that are opposed to the presence of foreigners. The masses are very willing to welcome foreigners to trade with them, and treat them with kindness and courtesy.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Key West, Fla., March 27, says: "An aquatic contest took place in this harbor on the afternoon of Saturday the 25th inst., between the admiral's barge of the flag-ship *Severn* and the second cutter of the monitor *Terror*, which excited the deepest interest among the officers and men of the entire fleet, and the time made by the victorious boat is the fastest time on record made by boats of her class, having beaten the time made by the *Shenandoah's* cutter in the harbor of Havre, France. The distance was five miles, and the course selected was from buoy No. 13 to the outer buoy at the entrance to the harbor, thence to and around the monitor *Dictator* to the place of starting. The day was all that could be desired, and the wharves and every available point from which a view of the race could be had was crowded with spectators, while the various ships comprising the fleet were crowded in every part, all manifesting the deepest interest in the result of the contest. The fine band of the flag-ship was stationed on board of the *Pawnee*, in close proximity to the stake boat, and played some popular airs during the progress of the race, and contributed much to the animated scene. At 5 P. M., the hour named for the race, both of the contestants put in an appearance, and drew up alongside of the stake boat, and at once tossed for choice of position, which was won by the *Terror's* cutter, who selected the inside course. Considerable delay was occasioned in getting the boats in proper position, but finally the customary signal was given, and both boats were prompt in starting, the barge having the advantage, closely pressed by the cutter, each putting forth their best efforts. As they passed the *Severn* and *Satara* they were vociferously cheered. As they proceeded to the outer buoy, the cutter gradually drew away from her opponent, and on turning the buoy was far in advance of her competitor, continuing to increase the gap between them as she passed Fort Taylor, maintaining her vantage ground as she proceeded. Arriving abreast of the Government wharf, the *Terror's* crew were greeted with the wildest enthusiasm from the crowds assembled, whose shouts were taken up and re-echoed by those on board of the shipping in the harbor, amid which could be heard the martial strains of the band on the *Pawnee*, the whole presenting such an animated scene as was never before witnessed in the harbor of Key West. At this juncture of the race, the vigorous and steady stroke of the *Terror's* crew was in striking contrast to the weak and faltering stroke of the barge's crew, who manifested evident signs of distress. To the most casual observer the result of the race was no longer doubtful, the *Terror's* cutter being several hundred yards ahead. As the contestants proceeded on their course they were greeted at various points along the water front, which burst forth in tremendous volume as the *Terror's* cutter rounded the *Dictator*, by the crews on the *Pilgrim*, *Ajax*, *Terror* and other monitors in close proximity. At this point it was in vain to deny the near approach of the barge, and in the extreme distance she might be seen plodding her way laboriously over the course passed some minutes prior by her rival. As the race was virtually decided, nothing worthy of note occurred on the homeward stretch, and the cutter reached the stake-boat some minutes in advance of her competitor, looking as fresh as when they started, having accomplished the distance—five miles—in 35 min. 20 sec., beating the *Shenandoah's* cutter's time one minute and nine seconds—being the fastest time on record. The repeated triumphs of the *Terror's* crew in this harbor are well deserved, they having defeated all competitors at the 4th of July regatta, 1870, and subsequently the cutter of the flag-ship *Congress*. Their defeat of the admiral's barge of the flag-ship *Severn* recorded above is one of a series of triumphs, of which they are justly proud. They may now well claim the championship of the North Atlantic fleet. Lieutenant Commander John McGowan, Jr., of the *Terror*, and Lieutenant Commander Green, of the *Satara*, acted as umpires; Lieutenant Commander Whiting of the same ship acting as referee; each gentleman impartially discharging the duties assigned them.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

MARCH 30.—Paymaster D. B. Batione, to the *Benicia*, Asiatic Fleet, per steamer of May 1.

MARCH 31.—First Assistant Engineer Thomas W. Rao, to the *Nantasket*.
Second Assistant Engineer Cyrus W. Foss, to the Navy-yard, Boston, Mass.

Acting Boatswain Francis Butland, to the receiving ship *Vandalia*.

APRIL 1.—Commander Montgomery Sbord, to command the receiving ship *Vandalia*, at Portsmouth, N. H.

Lieutenant Commander Joshua Bishop, to the Pacific Fleet.

APRIL 3.—Assistant Surgeon P. P. Bielby, to the Navy-yard, Washington, D. C.

Assistant Surgeon J. M. Scott, to the Naval Hospital, New York.

APRIL 4.—Lieutenant Joseph Marthon, to the receiving ship *Vermont*, at New York.

DETACHED.

MARCH 29.—Captain C. H. B. Caldwell, from the North Atlantic Fleet, and placed on sick leave.

MARCH 30.—Commander Oscar F. Stanton, from command of the receiving ship *Vandalia*, and placed on waiting orders.

Ensign Edward P. Wood, from the *Nyack*, and placed on waiting orders.

MARCH 31.—Commander John H. Russell, from command of the *Ossipee*, and placed on waiting orders.

Paymaster A. J. Pritchard, from the *Benicia*, and ordered to return to the United States.

Chaplain Henry B. Hibben, from the Naval Academy, and granted leave of absence.

First Assistant Engineer J. H. Bailey, from the *Nantasket*, and ordered to return home.

First Assistant Engineer A. S. Greene, from the *Nyack*, and placed on waiting orders.

APRIL 1.—Lieutenant William H. Emery, from the Naval Observatory, and ordered to the store ship *Relief*.

APRIL 3.—Ensign John B. Briggs, Edward A. Fields, and Wm. W. Kimball, from torpedo duty, and ordered to the *Shawmut*.

Passed Assistant Surgeon E. D. Payne, from the *Jamestown*, and ordered to return home.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Wm. H. Jones, from the Navy-yard, Washington, and ordered to the *Jamestown*.

First Assistant Engineer James Butterworth, from the Pacific Fleet, and placed on waiting orders.

APRIL 4.—Commander John Irwin, from the command of the *Yantic*, and placed on waiting orders.

Second Assistant Engineer Herschel Main, from the Pacific Fleet, and waiting orders.

Boatswain Robert McDonald, from the *Ossipee*, and granted sick leave.

Carpenter S. N. Whitehouse, from the *Jamestown*, and placed on waiting orders.

ORDERS REVOKED.

MARCH 29.—The orders of Lieutenant L. E. Chenery, to the *Saratoga*, and placed on sick leave.

MARCH 30.—The orders of Commander S. P. Quackenbush, to command the receiving ship *Vandalia*, and placed on waiting orders.

RESIGNED.

MARCH 29.—Lieutenant-Commander Henry B. Rumsey.

LIST OF DEATHS.

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the week ending April 1, 1871:

Thomas Flannigan, ordinary seaman (extra), December 30, 1870, U. S. steamer *Benicia*, at Yokohama, Japan.

John Wilson, seaman, January 5, U. S. steamer *Benicia*, at Yokohama, Japan.

William Clark, seaman, January 10, U. S. steamer *Benicia*, at Yokohama, Japan.

Andrew J. Harrington, marine, January 19, U. S. steamer *Alaska*, at China.

Gerard Eysen, quarter gunner, January 24, U. S. steamer *Colorado*.

James Entwistle, quarter gunner, March 5, U. S. steamer *Franklin*.

CHANGES IN THE MARINE CORPS.

The following are the changes in the officers of the Marine Corps since last memoranda, viz.:

First Lieutenant Charles F. Williams, U. S. Marine Corps.—On March 28 ordered, upon being relieved by Second Lieutenant C. P. Porter, U. S. Marine Corps, from command of marine guard on board U. S. steamer *Plymouth*, to proceed to the United States.

LETTERS IN THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

The following is a list of letters remaining in the New York Post-office on the dates given. These letters are retained in the New York Office for one month from date, after which they are sent to the Dead-Letter Office, Washington:

ARMY.

MARCH 31.

Buell, G. P., General. Howland, A. F., Captain.
Danforth John, Colonel. Marsh, J. E., Colonel.
Duryea, Hiram, General. Mapes, Jos., Captain.
Sommers, Henry, Captain.

APRIL 4.

Brown, Geo. W., Captain. Danforth, John, Colonel.
Chilton, W. H., Colonel. Duncan, Captain.

THE gas-works of Strasburg were almost destroyed by the bombardment. The *Engineer* describes the condition of the works as follows: "The fallen brickwork of the walls and buildings was found to have been so mercilessly pounded that the bricks were useless for building purposes. The brick-work and masonry which had not been actually levelled with the earth was in such a state that it had to be pulled down. The unexploded shells were estimated at about 5 per cent. of the total number fired, and it was necessary to guard the workmen very sedulously against the chances of an unlucky blow from a pickaxe or other tool occasioning an untimely explosion. An accident of this kind took place in a church near at hand, causing the death of four men. On January 1 the gas-works were so far restored that the whole of the central part of the city was lit up. The lighting of the remainder of the city was completed by the beginning of March. The metal of the shells was apparently almost too good, its tenacity being such that the fragments were few, only about six or eight in number. This might, however, be of advantage in dealing with masonry. The Strasburg houses were of a substantial character, and several unexploded shells remained in the upper floors of the buildings. The general effect of the fire has been to lay several parts of the city in ruins, while the citadel is entirely destroyed, together with most of the public buildings, which suffered more than the private houses, probably because they afforded the more ready mark for the gunners. The cathedral is more damaged than appears on a cursory examination."

CORRESPONDENCE.

ON THE MARCH TO FORT YUMA.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: If you will accept what strikes an individual, in the most humble and lowly capacity of a dismounted cavalryman, in a march of several hundred miles over a dreary, desert waste, and so strikes as to leave impressions, here they are.

First, then, the party consisted of Lieutenant George R. Bacon, commanding; Assistant Surgeon John D. Hall, U. S. Army; Troop K, First Cavalry (67 aggregate); Lieutenant W. W. Robinson, Third Cavalry, commanding a detachment of recruits destined for "Infantry Camp," who left the command at Florence. Six baggage wagons and one ambulance constituted our transportation.

After the usual adieu, "Don't forget to write," "Will you write?" etc., the start was made on the morning of February 17, 1871, and the confusion which attended it, without being seen, cannot well be imagined.

As I turned to take a farewell look at sombrous "Grant," with its dilapidated buildings, where I had for more than two years been constantly engaged in soldiering and working—mostly the latter, to confess the truth—I could not feel otherwise than sad, notwithstanding the change, which, happy to note, fairly promised to be for the better.

The party were all on foot except the officers, laundresses, and a happy, favored few to which class, unfortunately, your correspondent does not belong. Yet I feel contented, if not happy, in the change, which necessarily brings me to the golden city of the Far West, San Francisco, California, where, as it might be inferred, I anticipate a jolly time in company with friends—that is, if I be so fortunate as to get a pass.

Our march for the first day was over a dry, sandy road of a gentle inclination, leading through a narrow cañon, whose rocky walls or sides maintain a perpendicular front, or nearly so, and justly exhibit the denuding effects of water on a grand and extensive scale. The rocks are of an igneous origin, and, judging from the manner in which they jut out, and the graves of some of Arizona's best men, particularly adapted to the strange and usually successful manner in which the Apaches fight.

After a dry, severe, and fatiguing day's march we encamped at Cottonwood springs, where we found, much to the discomfort of all, wood and water scarce, the latter to be had only by digging in the sand.

I soon found a comfortable place between blankets, and would have slept the few hours allowed me were it not that a few of my buoyant associates kept up a continual clatter till the time arrived for the second start, which was made after we had eaten what in Arizona would be called an early breakfast for a soldier; yet I felt inclined to call it supper, so barely did the time escape being twelve o'clock midnight.

When the much looked-for "haymaker" made his effulgent appearance, we were several miles on the road, struggling through sand which relentlessly gave way at each would-be long step.

Sixteen miles of our dry, sandy road being left behind, we reached Round Valley, where a lunch was partaken of with avidity. Should any of your readers not possess a good appetite, I heartily recommend them a dose of Arizona's sand in the humble capacity of a dismounted cavalryman, as the manner in which government rations "disappear" on this march defies competition elsewhere.

Our party, much like a piece of india-rubber, was inclined to lengthen as we neared Florence settlement, which is situated on the Gila river, and probably contains five hundred inhabitants.

The following day, Sunday, we were allowed a day to recuperate, after a march of fifty miles with three hours' rest.

At daylight on the following day we were on the move; the early part of which was cloudy and cool, and one among the finest for marching; but later in the day the sun made his appearance, which, together with a dusty road, had a tendency to render us generally uncomfortable.

I did not fail to see the famous Casa Grande, situated between White's ranch and Blackwater station. It probably contained nine rooms in all. The walls are of immense thickness compared to other ruins I have seen on Salt river, Tonto creek, and other places in Arizona, and seem to have been constructed of a granular substance, which has become indurated to such a degree that the elements have had but little effect upon them. It stands alone with legends, not history; and when I turned away, foot-sore and weary, from the grand old edifice, curious questions concerning the hands that built and the people that inhabited it naturally forced themselves upon me.

A march of fourteen miles brought us to Agua Prieto, where we encamped at midday.

An Indian village of some forty curious-shaped huts is situated there. I failed to discover any stock, and judging from this fact, they possessed none. A quantity of dried pumpkins were all I discovered in the culinary department, yet they appear more happy with their scarcity than we do with plenty; our superior artificial wants will easily account for this. After supper we were visited by a number of Pimos, in honor of whom, I presume, the banjo was brought out and our little party for awhile apparently forgot their sufferings.

The next day, as usual, made an early start. Such a sameness exists along the road from Agua Prieto to Sacaton that it renders it generally dull and uninteresting. We were in high hopes that we could encamp at Sacaton; but, alas! no such good luck was ours, and accordingly pushed forward to Sweetwater. More huts, more Indians, and more pumpkins.

Two days' march through Pimo villages brought us to Maricopa wells, where, during the night we remained there, we were visited by anything but a pleasant

shower. As very few were fortunate enough to possess a tent, nearly all received a good ducking.

The following morning opened cool and clear, and as we were to remain there until midday, preparatory to crossing the Maricopa desert, a drying of blankets, a hunting of hats which were carried away by the wind the night previous, began quite earnestly.

I cannot say that any one suffered from the want of water in crossing the desert, but the mere fact of there being a scarcity of water makes one uncommonly thirsty; but this much, however, I can say, a march of forty-five miles without water is a regular "sneezer." (Sneezers, gentle reader, are not easy chairs.)

After leaving Gila bend, a mail station, the water at the stations was so impregnated with alkali as to render it totally unfit for use, "even by soldiers" as I heard a human being in the form of a man remark.

As the Gila is near, we found good water at Antelope Peak, but were equally as bad off for wood. Here Lieutenant Bacon indulged the troop in a little target practice, and it seemed a matter of astonishment to the pioneers residing there that a soldier could shoot at all. But nevertheless they did shoot, and with such especial accuracy that the citizens voluntarily acknowledged the practice to be "first-class."

After a march of two hundred and sixty-eight miles we reached this corner of the human garden, Fort Yuma, California, upon which, I can safely say, "the eyes of heaven shed but few tears." Yes, here we are, shirtless, shoeless, and I might with propriety add brainless. This misfortune—so far as the clothing is concerned—will, however, soon be remedied, as the lieutenant issues today.

Captain Bernard, with and commanding Troop G, First Cavalry, and Lieutenant Kyle, First Cavalry, we found here, apparently awaiting the arrival of Troop K, First Cavalry. But they did not wait long, having shuffled off at an early hour this morning. I failed to discover any wet handkerchiefs, and judged from this fact that Jones's "palace" in Arizona City had no visible effect upon them; but "time works wonders."

We leave here to-morrow for San Diego, California.

GASHUNTZ.

FORT YUMA, CALIFORNIA, March, 6, 1871.

HINTS FOR THE WAR OFFICE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Think what a high degree of refinement is expected, and properly too, of the American Army officer. His wife, also, must be and should be a lady of taste and culture, and one of delicate habits and modest manners. When these conditions of an Army officer's position are fulfilled what action is taken by the War Office? How does it fulfill its share of the noble task of elevating the standard of the officer's character and breeding? By crowding the officers' families into quarters that would disgrace the owner of a Five Points tenement house. If not thrust into miserable adobe huts scarcely better than those of the wretched greasers around them, or compelled to live in log houses with canvas roofs, they are crowded into damp and unwholesome casemates where the moisture drips all through the livelong day and night. Here and there is found a respectable dwelling, but more often some old hospital or long unused soldiers' barracks is rigged up economically, and converted to the officers' use, regardless of the seeds of disease or the millions of roaches that may linger in the building.

But when the quarters are assigned *pro rata*, then the climax of vulgar ignorance of the first requirements of civilization is reached by dividing the kitchens and privies *pro rata*.

That such is sometimes the case, the writer of this article has the best of evidence to prove; but that evidence does not convince him that the American people will sustain the War Office in a system of economy that establishes the tenement house as a recognized institution for the use of officers and their families.

ARMY BLUE.

GENERAL SERVICE MEN.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: I wish through the medium of your journal to call attention to the present unsatisfactory position of general service men employed as clerks at division and department headquarters, and to suggest a means by which their condition can be greatly ameliorated.

At present, in the event of the discontinuance of a division or department headquarters, a general service man has the option of finishing his term of enlistment in a company, or taking his discharge. In the latter case, if a situation happens to be open for him, no harm results of course; but the chances are very much against any such fortunate contingency arising. It is very difficult indeed for a discharged soldier to obtain a respectable position as clerk, on account of the prejudice existing against the employment of a person who has had the misfortune to serve his country for a term of years.

Thus a general service man may be thrown upon his own resources at comparatively a moment's warning, and how slender those resources must be, may be calculated by considering the remuneration he receives for his labor. If he be a married man, his condition is still more unfortunate. The result is that the service loses a great many useful men, who, if this danger of being thrown out of employment at any moment were not constantly before their eyes, would remain in it. The writer has been a clerk at a department headquarters four years, and chief clerk some time, and would gladly remain in the service under more favorable circumstances; but he has no intention of re-enlisting, unless he finds it impossible to procure a permanent respectable position in civil life. And as it is with him, it is with others.

To remedy this condition of affairs, I respectfully suggest that general service men should be placed on the same footing as hospital stewards, and if their services are not required at one headquarters, transfer them to another. By this means their position would become more hopeful, and assistant adjutant-generals would not be obliged, as they often are now when a vacancy occurs in the general service, to put up with a green hand.

Allow me to apologize for taking up so much of your valuable space, and to subscribe myself, yours very respectfully,

GENERAL SERVICE.

TEMPERANCE BALL AT FORT RANDALL.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: The Twenty-second Infantry Temperance Society gave their first annual ball at Fort Randall, D. T., on the 17th of February, 1871, one of the company quarters having been very tastefully fitted up for the occasion. The ball-room presented a very neat and tasteful appearance. On entering, the eye was attracted by a numerous and brilliant display of stars made from bayonets, very artistic and beautiful chandeliers, neatly executed inscriptions illustrative of the Order of Good Templars. These are to be credited to the skillful hands of Privates Stephenson and Roth of Company C, and Artificer Forbes of Company G. "The grand entrance" was a very imposing sight, the members all appearing in their regalia. Dancing was continued until 12 o'clock, when all repaired to the supper table, which was covered with all the delicacies of the season, and looked very attractive with its glass and silverware, bouquets of flowers, etc. After supper, the party again returned to the ball-room, where dancing was kept up until 2 o'clock in the morning, when to the tune of "Home, Sweet Home" all left for their homes fully satisfied. Thus ended one of the best conducted balls I have witnessed for some time. To First Sergeant Clinton of Company G, First Sergeant Slaymaker of Company H, Sergeant Malcomson of Company H, Sergeant Ward of Company C, and Privates Carver and Hanlon of Company G, the members are indebted for assiduous and polite attentions. H. T.

FORT RANDALL, D. T., Feb. 23, 1871.

THE PURCHASE OF ARMY CLOTHING.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: I would like to call attention through your columns to the fact that though a soldier can be punished for selling Government clothing, there is no law by which the buyer of such clothing can be punished. Every person who has been or is now in the military service of the United States, knows the result of having near or about the posts and garrisons at which they may be serving, persons who are ready and anxious to purchase any and all articles of Army clothing, giving in return a small money value, or more frequently whiskey; and they will agree with me that if such purchasing was made a penal offence by act of Congress, money would be saved by the Government, and there would be less drunkenness and immorality in and desertion from the Army.

Can we not have some legislation by Congress in this matter? As, for instance, an act prohibiting either the wearing or possession of any portion of the uniform issued to United States soldiers, except by those in the military service of the United States. Without such a law it is impossible to stop the sale of Army clothing; and the advantages of such a law will be very great.

QUIRINAL.

BALL AT CAMP WARNER, OREGON.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In order to give you and your readers an idea how we enjoy ourselves here in the wilderness, I take the liberty to give you a slight description of a ball that took place here on the evening of St. Patrick's day, the 17th instant, hoping you will be pleased to give it a place in your influential paper.

Some time ago the idea of giving a ball was started by the non-commissioned officers of our company (Company B, Twenty-third Infantry), and First Sergeant Mushawek was appointed manager. Committees were elected, \$500 subscribed for expenses, and a party, consisting of Sergeant Storm and four privates, provided through the kindness of the commanding officer of the post, Major Elmer Otis, First Cavalry, with pack mules, repaired to Lake City, California, to procure the necessary materials. During their absence another party, under the superintendence of Sergeants Mushawek, Burke, and Burns, decorated the company's mess-hall with flags, wreaths, and garlands of evergreen, until it looked exactly like a flag-tent. Any one who has passed any time in a retired place like Camp Warner, knows that every little incident out of the regular mode of life creates an excitement; and so you may judge of the interest excited by the coming feast, which the committees had resolved should be not only a feast to the company, but to the whole garrison. They had accordingly issued invitations to Company I, Twenty-third Infantry, and Troop B, First Cavalry, both companies forming with our own the garrison of this post. Besides, an invitation was sent to Troop A, First Cavalry, stationed at Camp Bidwell, California; but owing to the bad weather and the deep snow, nobody could come up from that post, distant from here about seventy miles.

At last the day anxiously looked for by so many dawned, and fortunately a strong frost had set in that was preferable to the wet weather of the preceding day, as it would enable the invited guests to assemble in full. Invitations had been sent to all the officers of the garrison, and they all favored us with their company.

Punctually at eight o'clock P. M., the hour mentioned in the invitations, the officers arrived with their ladies and children, and the orchestra, consisting of fiddle, flute, guitar, and banjo, began to play. The ball was opened by Captain Henton, First Lieutenant Trout, Second Lieutenant Fisher, all three belonging to our company, and Lieutenant Moss, First Cavalry, the company officers with their ladies, Lieutenant Moss with Mrs. Snider, the wife of the post sutler. After having been opened, the ball proceeded, and all enjoyed themselves to their hearts' content. At about midnight supper was announced, and a splendid meal awaited us. After the supper had been disposed of, dancing recommenced and lasted until nearly four o'clock A. M. The officers, having retired for supper in our first sergeant's room at about eleven o'clock, returned to the ball and remained

there till after two o'clock in the morning. Everybody was satisfied, and we hope that our entertainment will not be forgotten in the garrison for a long time.

PRIVATE HAARDT.

CAMP WARNER, OREGON, March 20, 1871.

THE AMERICAN AMBULANCE.

(From the Gazette Médicale de Paris, 1870.)

THE ambulance is composed of several tents of twilled cotton, circular or square. These last, containing about six beds, are put back to back, each one to another, for the purpose of constituting a single tent, in the form of a rectangle, capable of receiving twenty or thirty patients. This arrangement facilitates service, but it would be defective from a hygienic point of view, if the renewal of the air were not as easy and as perfect, whether through the fabric itself which constitutes the walls of the tent, or through the movable windows which they have fixed there.

Furthermore, these tents are simply juxtaposed the one to the other, and then to separate them into isolated compartments they have only to let fall the partitions which they have put up to establish the communications. Several of these tents are covered with a second cloth, serving for a roofing and lapping over the first, in order the better to protect it from rain. The board floor is traversed through its whole length by a pipe through which circulates warm air coming from the same heater for all the tents. This air penetrates into the tent by registers, or through the cracks in the floor. It drives away the moisture and keeps up the temperature to a sufficient degree. In a tent where they were dressing wounds, and where they had on that account sought to raise the temperature, we have noted 18° Cent. During very cold days the temperature is habitually from 12° to 15°.

To these tents, which have already served in America during the war of secession, they have added others, constructed at Paris upon another plan. Those are barrack tents; they are warmed by stoves, and are much inferior to the former.

There is nothing peculiar in the bedding. The mattresses are of sea-moss. The beds are low, which is a little troublesome for the dressings.

They are very close to each other, which inevitably diminishes the chances of infection in every other locality than this one tent. Dr. Swinburne has had only one case of erysipelas. He has observed neither diphtheria nor hospital putrefaction nor purulent infection. He has had, nevertheless, to perform a good number of important operations. We have seen three amputated from the thigh get well; the American surgeon has lost only two out of five. The amputations from the shoulder, of which we have seen five cases in the way of recovery, have given results not less satisfactory. It appeared that certain amputations of the arm or leg were less successful.

They generally accuse the American surgeons of a too great proclivity for operating. We have verified, on the contrary, with pleasure, the efforts (and efforts crowned with success) of a conservative surgery. Thus, we have seen several cases of comminutive fracture of the thigh in the way of recovery. The member is placed in a gutter, or upon a double inclined plane. The continued extension is made by means of a system of cords, pulleys, and weights; the counter-extension is operated by the weight of the patient himself, the bed being inclined from the feet towards the pelvis.

Dr. Swinburne employs for the dressings tarred oakum, made from old cordage. He stimulates certain wounds, in dressing them, with lint soaked in a solution (at 500 deg., we believe) of nitric acid. He also uses for washing the wounds, or for injecting in the direction of wounds, an alcoholized and carbolized solution. He wards off by simple poultices accidental inflammations. All the dressings, whatever they may be, are covered with a compress soaked in tepid water, and covered again with oiled silk or a similar tissue of cotton, which is more pliable, but appears not to be so good.

Dr. Swinburne is the only active doctor of the ambulance (Dr. Johnson has the title and performs the duties of consulting physician). He has for aids only people who are devoted to this work of charity, and who give of themselves as well as of their purse; artists appear to strive with men of finance. We have seen one of these last dress a wound on which they had performed an amputation from the shoulder; we insiders would not do it better.

The ambulance is established on the Avenue Urich (formerly Avenue de l'Imperatrice), in one of the most airy quarters of Paris, one could almost say in the country on account of its vicinity to the Bois de Boulogne, where they make the most convalescent of the wounded take frequent rides. The hygienic conditions are therefore the best in every respect, and it is to these, above all, that are due the happy results, of which we ourselves have been able to state many examples. If we add that the cost of inauguration of each tent is of the most trifling, the material being reduced to the greatest simplicity, without, nevertheless, excluding necessary comfort, we cannot help thinking that the millions devoted to the construction of these barracks or bastilles that they decorate with the name of hospitals would have been better employed in establishing on the heights of Trocadero, on the hills of Chaumont, Ménilmontant, etc., ambulances under canvas, where those of our poor who cannot be treated in their families would find light and pure refreshing air, in a word all the conditions requisite for favoring and assuring to them a return to health. A revolution in our hospital hygiene is then necessary; it is imminent—it is commencing. Let those who are going to inaugurate the ambulances for the multitude witness the barracks of the Luxembourg and of the Jardin des Plantes, to which we shall not be slow to come again. We hope that this revolution will be complete, and that for a certain number of years hence there will not remain a stone of our hospitals and lying-in asylums (*maternités*), or at least that their purpose will be changed.

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July 28, 1866, would like to transfer with a Captain of Cavalry.
Liberal inducements offered. Address CAPTAIN, at this
office.

TRANSFER.—AN INFANTRY CAPTAIN in one of
the oldest and best white regiments, serving at a most agree-
able post in the East, is desirous of negotiating a transfer with a
Captain of Cavalry (white), of date July, 1866. Liberal inducements
offered. Address INFANTRY, care of ARMY AND NAVY
JOURNAL.

THE Naval Register for 1871, which has just appeared, shows, by comparison with the one last issued, an increase in the number of admirals on the active list from a total of 10 to 12; of lieutenants from 69 to 141; of mates from 99 to 151; assistant paymasters from 5 to 29; chief engineers from 48 to 56; first assistant engineers from 86 to 98. The commanders have decreased in number from 90 to 89; the lieutenant-commanders from 180 to 178; the ensigns from 164 to 151, and the midshipmen from 74 to 69; the passed assistant surgeons from 35 to 32; the passed assistant paymasters from 40 to 39; the second assistant engineers from 112 to 93. The warrant officers have increased from 165 to 176, and the midshipmen at the Naval Academy from 163 to 240, not counting the two Japanese received for instruction. The total number of officers on the active list, commissioned and warrant, line and staff, borne on the Register for this year, is 1,745, as compared with 1,621 on the last year, the retired list remaining about the same. Skipping here and there a name, promotion has meanwhile travelled down the line of commodores on the active list nine numbers; down the list of commanders thirteen numbers; the lieutenant-commanders fifteen numbers; and the lieutenants seventeen numbers.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SHERIDAN is on his way home from his interesting visit to Europe, where he has been everywhere the recipient of the most marked attentions. He is expected in New York during the present month. In anticipation of his arrival the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, at their meeting at Delmonico's on Wednesday last, appointed a committee to wait on him and invite him to join in the sociable interchanges of their next monthly gathering at the same place.

As the following letter has found its way into the New York Herald, we republish it, although we have too much experience of deserters' excuses to trust their statements on any subject without corroborative evidence:

I have a brother, a soldier in the Army of the United States now, and a faithful private during the whole of the Rebellion. The following extract from a letter received from him, mailed at Taos, New Mexico, I send to you for publication, as such things should be brought to the attention of the authorities in Washington, and if known and approved there the people should know that such things are permitted:

"DEAR BROTHER:
I have deserted from my company at Fort Garland, and have taken the chances for a punishment if recaptured. When I enlisted I did it, as you know, from a fondness for a soldier's life. I desert now simply because instead of being treated like a man I have been abused worse than a brute. Have not had a dollar in pay in nearly two years, except through the trader in dribbles from his store. There has not been a paymaster at Fort Garland in nearly three years. The troops have been paid by the trader entirely, and I and others, instead of having money, have been obliged to take our pay in trade, the trader of course pocketing all the money. I am only one of more than fifty who have deserted in two years past from this post. We cannot see what paymasters are for, if not to pay money to the soldiers. We know that there are three or four at Santa Fe, who frequently have nothing to do for months at a time. It does seem to us that a trip of ten days, once in two months, to this post could easily be made. The quartermaster's men here are always paid their money every month. They get the cash direct from the office of their department. Is it fair to discriminate between the poor soldier and the teamster? I write this in haste, as I am on my way to the southern mines, and if not wearing a ball and chain you will hear from me from Sonora, in Mexico. There are at least fifty deserters whom I know doing well in the mines.
Such is the story of a poor soldier. If such things are permitted by a soldier President, what may we expect next.
Yours, etc.,
WILLIAM Y. B.—"

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PRUSSIAN STAFF ORGANIZATION.

PREVIOUS to the outbreak of hostilities between France and Germany, Colonel STOFFEL, the military resident of the French government at Berlin, published a paper on the Prussian military system, the real value of which was not then understood in France, addressed as the Colonel's observations were to that spirit of impenetrable self-satisfaction with which TROCHU, D'AUMALE, and others argued so vainly. From Colonel STOFFEL's memoir we republish a comparison of the French and German systems of staff organization, for the translation of which we are indebted to a young officer of engineers, Lieutenant MAHAN. It presents the admirable Prussian system of staff education and staff organization in contrast with the defective systems which prevail in France and elsewhere. The dispute as to which is the more important, the study of theory or devotion to practice, Prussia settles by uniting the two in harmonious proportions, giving the practical education, however, the first place in the order of succession. All candidates for commissions, excepting the cadets, are required to go through a course of practical service before obtaining theoretical instruction. And all Prussian military authorities agree in considering this preferable to the opposite system adopted in France and England, as well as the United States, of giving the theoretical instruction before the practical. It is maintained in Prussia that theory can be more readily understood if based on a groundwork of actual practical knowledge, and that officers of the age of twenty-three or twenty-four, with a practical knowledge of their duties, derive more advantage from study than youths of seventeen or eighteen, who have no previous acquaintance with the subject of their studies.

As a rule, all officers in the Prussian army, whether infantry, cavalry, artillery, or engineers, have the right to staff appointments as vacancies occur, if they have gone through the prescribed course and passed the necessary examinations. But no officer is eligible for entry into the war academy at Berlin, where he will learn his staff duties, until he has served with his regiment for three years, exclusive of furloughs or of time passed on the sick list. A general principle laid down in Prussia is that officers of the staff must be the most intelligent and best educated in the whole army; and to obtain these officers, a very rigid system of examination and sifting is pursued, so that those who go through the ordeal may be looked upon as superior to their fellows in intelligence and intellect, with a higher standard of military efficiency, probably, than any other class of officers in Europe. To be on the Prussian staff is therefore a very desirable thing for a young officer. Among other advantages he will enjoy, is a gain of from seven to eight years in promotion over others; and he may reasonably expect to be general seven or eight years before a comrade in the line or cavalry who started in the race in the same year as himself.

Some one hundred and twenty young officers present themselves yearly for admission into the war academy at Berlin, to go through the curriculum of studies necessary for admittance into the staff.

About a third are accepted, the other two-thirds are returned to their regiments, the entry being secured by competitive examination of the candidates. During the first and second years after admittance to the academy, the officers pass nine months of each year at the academy, and three months of the autumn with their regiments to assist at the great manoeuvres which take place yearly at that period. The first nine months of the third year are also passed at the academy. The tenth month of that year is employed in making what is termed a "staff journey," under the guidance of military professors, during which military problems are solved. The officers are then sent back to their regiments, having gone through a mixed course lasting two years and ten months; a long preparation it seems, considering the rigid examinations they have undergone to qualify them for obtaining commissions even. No wonder the Prussian staff is learned and efficient.

But their course is not yet complete. The professors of the academy yearly designate to General MOLTKE, the head of the staff, those officers who, having completed their course and been returned to their regiments, have proved themselves the most studious and efficient. Out of these the General selects a certain number, according to the probable wants of the service and vacancies during the coming year, taking care to choose some from each branch of the service. The selected ones are recalled from their regiments and sent to serve for nine months in a branch of the service other than their own. The most zealous are appointed to the staff at Berlin, and spend a year and a half under the immediate supervision of General MOLTKE himself, who by this means makes himself thoroughly acquainted with the character and special turn of mind of the best officers of the staff. The General himself gives lectures. The young staff officers write treatises on certain given subjects, and General MOLTKE reads or criticises them before all the rest, without, however, making known the name of the author.

Again are these officers sent back to their regiments, and in the course of the next six months those whom General MOLTKE has finally selected are gazetted as captains of the staff, and at last are entitled to wear the uniform. No one can fail to see the extraordinary precautions taken to insure that none but first-rate men shall be appointed to the staff. It would seem as if successfully passing a brilliant examination only leads to another examination; and that the more examinations an officer passes, the more he still has to pass. Obstacles and difficulties are multiplied, and he must be a superior man indeed who can clear them all without a flaw or fall.

Once gazetted, General MOLTKE selects the best out of the good to join the "great staff" at Berlin. The others are appointed to the staff of army corps and divisions. Having served for two years as captains on the staff, these officers have to resume regimental duty for two years as chiefs of a company, a squadron, or a battery. They are then promoted to majors on the staff. Before being promoted to the grade of lieutenant-colonel on the staff a major must serve with a regiment as chief of a battalion, or of a corresponding subdivision of a regiment of cavalry or artillery. And again, before reaching the grade of colonel on the staff, he must serve as commander of a line regiment. General MOLTKE rigidly excludes from the staff any officer who is physically incapable of being a first-rate horseman, no matter how excellent may be his aptitude in every other respect.

We doubt whether such thoroughness as this is possible to any but the patient German race; but what would not such a staff have done for us in our war of the Rebellion, where a lot of boys fresh from civil life, and ignorant of the first principles of military science, were our chief dependence for the difficult and delicate duties of staff officers. It is marvellous that they did as well as they did with no other preparation than a few weeks' study of the Regulations, Tactics, and such works on the art of war as came most readily to hand.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Fort Fetterman, W. T., March 12, 1871, says: "The Fourth Infantry has, as you undoubtedly know, been ordered to proceed to Louisville, Ky., and to report to the general commanding the Division of the South. The Four-

teenth Infantry will take our place, and the three companies for Fetterman were expected to leave Fort Russell yesterday, the 11th instant. We suppose the whole regiment will be concentrated at Cheyenne about the 30th instant, to take the cars for its place of destination. Though the regiment is really sorry to leave the Department of the Platte, the greater number of officers and men of course enjoy the prospect of being stationed in the 'States.' Change is a thing much coveted by soldiers. You can, however, have too much of a good thing, and the duties which the condition of affairs may likely impose upon us are not such as to appear very attractive. To fight the open enemies of the country soldiers are always glad; but to act as 'sheriff's posse' is not exactly what soldiers, and especially officers, like to do. If you shoot too soon, they will try to hang you by civil authority; and if you fire too late, you may be brought before a general court-martial. Good soldiers, however, will do their duty cheerfully under all circumstances, be it agreeable or not, and so will the Fourth Infantry."

By an inadvertence we have neglected to make mention of a work published in England last fall, and which is in many respects worthy of very honorable mention. It is called "Staff College Essays," is the production of Lieutenant EVELYN BARRING of the British artillery service, and is published by LONGMANS, GREEN & Co., of London.

The chief object of the author in publishing these essays, which were written in the years 1868 and 1869, "is to show to the public in general, and in particular to those officers of the army who are unacquainted with the Staff College system, the nature of work that is done at the institution." In his introduction he says of his essays:

They do not pretend to anything original; all that I have attempted is to give a clear and concise account of the various military operations discussed, and to add such comments as a study of the best writers on strategy and tactics would seem to suggest.

Before speaking of the essays we will quote further from the author's preface some remarks on the Staff College, since the publication of the essays is apparently intended to justify the mode of instruction in that institution:

A considerable variety of opinion exists as to the relative practical value of the different subjects taught at the Staff College, and as to the best method of imparting instruction in them; but on the subject of military history there is little difference of opinion; every one recognizes its importance, and I think that all officers who have passed through the Staff College will agree with me that the method of teaching is in the main admirable. A series of lectures is given; in some of these the general principles which govern strategy and tactics are discussed; in others the operations of some one campaign are described, with a view to illustrate a particular branch of the general subject; for instance, the operations of 1848 in Italy are described as illustrative of the true value of fortresses. From time to time the professor of military history chooses at his own discretion some subject on which he has been recently lecturing, and which is peculiarly deserving of more ample discussion than is permitted in the course of a limited number of lectures. Each officer is then expected to study this subject fully; the lectures have already directed the mind to the proper manner of approaching it; at the end of a month an essay, or "memoir," as it is termed, is sent in by each officer to the professor of military history, who carefully peruses it and returns it to the author with such remarks or corrections as he may deem necessary.

There can be little doubt that the preparation of these memoirs is one of the most valuable parts of the Staff College system of instruction. Not only does the study and thought necessary to their composition oblige each officer to form an opinion more or less original on some leading feature in strategy and tactics, but also the habit is obtained of writing an intelligible account of military operations, than which nothing can be more satisfactory to a staff officer.

The essays are three in number, and are entitled "Changes in the Art of War from 1792 to 1815," "The Campaign of Ulm," and "The Operations in Poland from December 1 to 26, 1806." Thus the mode of treating three classes of subjects is illustrated: a general subject, a campaign in which an army was the objective, and a campaign in which a strategical line was the objective. In writing upon the second and third themes the author naturally adheres closely to the mode of treatment which the custom of the college expects him to use. The situation at the opening of the campaign and the movements during its progress are stated with particularity, while at the end the verdict of historians upon its strategy and tactics is collated from the various works which have discussed it. Originality is of course desirable, but in treating such well-worn subjects as the campaigns of NAPOLEON, the author can hardly do more than give his own cast to the paper, and express his views by the selection of comments made by others. The changes in the art of war offer a field for a greater exhibition of personal opinion, but even in

this there is throughout a continuous reference to the great lights of military literature.

The work is every way creditable both to the author and to the Staff College of which it is the exponent. The essays fully bear out the author's estimate of the value of the college, and the value of its methods in teaching as well. His personality appears more in the work than his modest claims in the preface lead the reader to expect; and there is an earnestness in his treatment, a unity of purpose in the progress of his subject, which are evidences of something more than a mere collation of authorities.

It is to be regretted that the Chief Signal Officer of the Army has been compelled from some cause or other to stop the publication of the minute weather reports which at first appeared in the morning papers. At present only summaries of the data are given, and the result is disappointment everywhere. The interest which the public took in the former reports is a gratifying proof of the hold which the experiment of prophesying storms had upon the people. As a promoter of scientific investigation the old reports were invaluable, and promised to be the exciting cause of a very extensive system of meteorological observation.

THE characteristic message to the Senate, with which the President accompanies the report of the Santo Domingo commissioners, should convince even the most implacable enemies of annexation of the sincere regard for the public interest which has controlled the executive action in this case. Fortunately unfitted by nature and habit to pursue the tortuous ways of political expediency, General GRANT is conscious that his real strength lies in the disposition to strike straight at his object, and it is this consciousness which has prompted the issue of this message. He answers the persistent attempts of his enemies to place him in a false position before the country by a frank appeal to the country, understanding by instinct, what the doctrinaires are incapable of learning at all, that the strong American good sense is more concerned with the essence than the form of things, and will judge him by the real purpose which is involved in his action, without being misled by mere quibbles as to modes of procedure. The report of the commissioners shows conclusively that the President has kept within the truth in his statements as to the value of Santo Domingo as a territorial acquisition, as to the condition of political affairs in that republic, and as to the desire of the people for annexation. With the matter placed before the country in such a shape that the public mind cannot be further misled by prejudiced statements, the President wisely leaves the question for decision by the people through their authorized representatives. That we shall ultimately become possessed of Santo Domingo we do not doubt. It only remains to be seen whether our Senators are wise enough to avail themselves of this opportunity for its acquisition.

THE election in Paris, which resulted in the triumph of the insurgent Nationals, was followed on the 28th of March by a proclamation from the Hotel de Ville of the Commune, and the formal assumption by the Communal Council of the authority surrendered to it by the Sub-Central Committee. Officials who refused to recognize the rule of the mob were dismissed. Decrees and proclamations following in rapid succession announced with sufficient distinctness the purposes of the Reds. The conscription was abolished, and, to enable quiet citizens to realize at once how much they had gained by this, all able-bodied men were ordered to enroll themselves in the National Guard. Church and State were separated by decree, and the Archbishop of Paris arrested as an enemy of the people. The religious bodies were abolished, and the national property ordered to be disposed of. The landlords were visited with orders to collect no rents for the six months from October, 1870, to April, 1871; the sale of articles in pawn was suspended; and finally, THIERS and his associates were cited to appear before the tribunal of the people, and the seizure of their property ordered. At Marseilles and elsewhere attempts were made to inaugurate a similar order of things, but apparently with but temporary success.

The answer of the Versailles government to this was a more vigorous effort to organize a military force to maintain its authority, Prussian permission to organize a large force being first obtained. General VINOY was appointed to succeed BARRAL in command of the army, and finally the still popular Marshal MACMAHON was wisely appointed to the supreme command. Emboldened by their success, and counting with confidence upon their ability to seduce the troops from their allegiance, the Communal forces advanced from Paris against Versailles with a force divided into three corps, and estimated at from 100,000 to 120,000 men, and with 200 guns. Their right wing was commanded by BERGERET, the left by EUDES, the centre by DUVAL, and GUSTAVE FLOURENS commanded the reserve. The line of march was directed on Versailles by Montrouge Issy, and Reuil.

Such confused reports as have been received indicate the complete rout of this force, who seem to have left Fort Mont Valerien in their rear and to have suffered from its well-directed and unexpected fire, FLOURENS and DUVAL being reported among the killed; the Zouaves are reported to have repulsed the Communists' attack on Castle Meudon; but the affair has too little the character of regular operations to be worth following in detail. With that enlightened military critic General CLUSERET in control of the War Office at Paris, we cannot doubt that the most approved principles of the military science were duly applied, and that the Communal forces must have been, as they report, "betrayed." It would be fortunate for France if CLUSERET and a few of his ilk should prove to be the first victims of this suspicion.

THE annual reunion of the Society of the Army of the Potomac is to be held in Boston, May 12, and not on the 9th of April, as some of the members appear to think. The Executive Committee have secured the use of the fine Globe Theatre for the meeting. The poem will be delivered by BRET HARTE, whose "Heathen Chinese" has opened a new chapter in American literature. There is every prospect of a large meeting, and we hope none will stay away because their pet notions as to the proper organization may not have been heretofore realized. The Society seems destined to live long enough to give all an opportunity, and those who refuse to appear cannot well complain if the old rule of "first come, first served" asserts itself here as well as elsewhere.

FROM the younger graduates of West Point we have received several contradictions of the statement published in the JOURNAL over the signature of "Veritas," to the effect that "From time immemorial it has been customary at West Point to answer 'Here' in ranks for absent classmates." One of these appeared last week under the heading of "The Military Academy." Another correspondent says: "I do not know what was customary in 'time immemorial,' but I do know that during the four years I was a cadet, it was not customary to answer 'Here' for absent classmates either in ranks or in quarters. If it was customary to do so in 'time immemorial,' the custom has since changed. 'Veritas' should choose another *nom de plume*."

THAT the terms of peace between France and Germany changed what had been a war for the grand objects of national liberty and unity in Germany into a brutal means of money making is further shown by the statement of President THIERS in the French Assembly that the expenses of the war outside of Paris "exceeded 1,100,000,000 francs. Assuming the entire cost in and out of Paris to have been double that sum and we have less than half the amount demanded by the Germans. Of the ability of the French to pay the indemnity the German Correspondent gives the following illustration: "As soon as a war was expected, money was never wanting. The military enterprises of NAPOLEON III. cost the nation 4,000,000,000 francs, and yet when in 1868 a new loan of 450,000,000 francs was demanded, and it was noised abroad that an attack on Prussia was meditated, thirty-four times the sum required was subscribed, though it was issued at 69 1-2 and bore an interest of only three per cent. Thus more than 15,000,000,000 francs were placed at the disposal of the Government."

WINTER QUARTERS FOR CAVALRY.

A LIVELY discussion arose in the Senate March 24 on an amendment offered by Mr. Pomeroy to the deficiency Appropriation bill, appropriating \$350,000 to enable the Secretary of War to enlarge the military depot at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. [Mr. Pomeroy, in offering the amendment, explained that it was based upon the elaborate report of General Pope to the Secretary of War, recommending the measure, his recommendation being endorsed by both General Sherman and the Secretary. The object, as the Senator explained, is "to enlarge the quarters at Fort Leavenworth, so that during the winter and certain portions of the year when the troops cannot well be stationed out on the frontiers, they can be returned there and kept economically for the Government." Several Senators objecting, Mr. Caldwell explained that Fort Leavenworth is a reservation of some six or seven thousand acres, some miles above the city of Leavenworth, with buildings for five or six hundred cavalry. He added:

What we propose to do now is to enlarge these buildings so as to accommodate one full regiment, and, instead of carrying the forage and the grain and subsistence necessary for supporting these troops away out on the plains five or six hundred miles, to make the horses and men come to the forage and use it there. These things can be purchased at Fort Leavenworth a great deal cheaper than they can on the plains. I have in my possession a paper by which I can show that the Government will save at least \$200,000 a year by purchasing these articles at Fort Leavenworth and supplying them to the troops there instead of purchasing them there and sending them out to the plains. There is another reason for it. The troops will be much more efficient and better disciplined if during the winter a thousand men are kept together and drilled together than if they are scattered over the plains in detachments of one or two companies. They will be more efficient for service, and, since the railroads have been extended on the plains, nearly all the posts in the interior can be reached, or we can get troops within a reasonable distance of them by rail, so that they can be brought to this place during the winter and sent out in the spring to operate against the Indians. During the winter they are not required on the plains. The Indians go into winter quarters and so do the troops: it is very rarely that a winter campaign is made against Indians. Therefore we do not require the troops to be on the plains in the winter.

Mr. Morrill of Vermont moved that the amendment lie on the table for the reason "that under the Indian policy adopted by the President of the United States, a peace policy, instead of enlarging the quarters of the men who are to hunt down Indians hereafter, we shall be very likely to curtail them." Mr. Caldwell in replying further explained:

This is a matter in which there is no money to be made; there is no "steal" in it, although it may come from Kansas [laughter]; but it is simply a matter for the promotion of the public interests and to economize the expenditures of the Army. I feel a great interest in it, of course, because Leavenworth is in Kansas. It is the most beautiful reservation probably in the United States, and one very valuable to the Government; and from its geographical position it will serve for all time to come as a great central military depot for the United States—a great supply depot.

Mr. Blair—If the Senator from Kansas will permit me, I will say that this proposition commends itself very much to me. It is well known that the cavalry cannot be used in winter time on the plains. If they are wintered there it is at an enormous expense. The expense of carrying supplies and provisions out to those distant posts is very great. It is a matter of economy in that respect that the troops should be wintered in some place where provisions and supplies of every description can be obtained at moderate rates. And then, as has been said, the railroads concentrate at this point; all the roads that run out on the plains reach Leavenworth, so that the troops in the spring of the year, when they can be made useful, can be brought very rapidly to their different posts. In every respect this is a proper amendment. I think it was considered the other day by the Military Committee and almost every member of the committee was in favor of it.

Mr. Corbett objected on the ground that in an experience of twenty years on the frontier he had never known of one success on our part during the summer in a conflict with the Indians in the Indian country; the proper time to attack them being in the winter, when they were in camp. Accommodations at Fort Leavenworth for 500 cavalry were enough in his opinion. [He concluded:

I do not believe that this is going to cheapen our military expenses. When troops are located at posts in the interior, they can cut their own hay and the soldiers can put it up, and all the transportation that is necessary is of flour, beef, and pork, and that section of the country is now being settled up so that the localities will furnish those supplies to the troops very nearly as cheap as they can be got at Fort Leavenworth. I do not believe it is going to be a matter of economy to bring these troops back from the interior to Fort Leavenworth, and then in the summer to send them away off into the interior, where many of them will have to go by railroad.

Mr. Tilton objected that Leavenworth was too far from the seat of Indian operations, being no longer on the frontier, and added, being from Omaha himself:

It has been found necessary by the Department that on the great Union Pacific railroad, which is somewhere and does lead somewhere, there should be a military depot; and therefore now buildings are just up and painted at Omaha, about three or four hundred miles north of Kansas, and there we have a quartermaster's department, and there corn and other produce are bought and shipped over the railroad to the military posts west and northwest of us. If you have three or four hundred thousand dollars that you wish to invest profitably now lying idly in your Treasury, send it out there and

complete your building at Omaha, and do not go on the back track.

Mr. Blair urged in reply that troops could not be wintered on the plains as economically as they could at Leavenworth. He said:

You must have stables for them on the plains, temporary barracks and stables, and those are being changed every day from one post to another; and you have in the end a larger cost in building barracks in that way than you would if you had permanent barracks at Leavenworth, with the railroads to transport the troops to the neighborhood of the points where they are desirable in the spring of the year, when active service can be entered upon. I believe that in our legislation upon these subjects we should do better and act with more safety if we followed the advice of experienced general officers rather than that of experienced Senators.

Mr. Caldwell thought there would be no necessity of vacating Fort Leavenworth for a hundred years to come. He adds:

The theory of the Senator from Oregon might be correct, provided the Indians would stay. He says: "Locate your military forts near the Indians, so that you can catch them." They are not in the habit of staying near a fort. If you establish a fort near the Indians, they will be very apt to get away; but we can reach them from Fort Leavenworth now by rail if we choose to do so, or we can send out the troops in early spring and march to the Indian country, whichever will be most economical to the Government. The building of railroads over the plains has rendered it unnecessary to have the troops out on the plains during the winter. We do not propose to bring all the troops here. We do not, as the Senator from Nebraska said, propose to bring in the troops from Fort Laramie, from Fort John Buford, and from Salt Lake. Those troops will be required to remain there. We only want sufficient accommodations to house and winter the troops that will be necessary for years to come to protect the frontier of Kansas.

The adjournment intervening, the subject was resumed the next day. Mr. Davis told the old story about General Pope and the despatch announcing the capture of 1,000 prisoners. Mr. Blair declared the well-known fact that the story has not a word of truth in it, and Mr. Davis proceeded to give his opinion of Army officers, saying:

I have a great deal of confidence in General Sherman, in his military capacity, and in his honor and knighthood. I have none in General John Pope. I have not much in General Halleck. I believe General Halleck is entitled to as much credit as General John Pope. I have very little in the capacity of General Sheridan. I believe he is a gallant rider; but as to intellect and military capacity he is a very small affair. [Laughter.] I think that this proposition to appropriate \$350,000 for building stables at that now almost central point of the United States in Kansas, which in a few years will be about the centre of the United States, is just about of a piece with the proclamation of General John Pope, or of General Halleck, whichever it was.

Mr. Wilson urged the importance of the appropriation, and defended General Pope, of whom he said:

Mr. President, I regret very much that the Senator from Kentucky has thought it to be his duty to make these comments on General Pope. I suppose General Pope, like most of the men in the civil and military service of the United States during the war, had some failings, some shortcomings, made some mistakes; but General Pope is one of the best-read and best-informed officers in the United States, and there are to-day very few men his peers in that respect. I think he rendered important service to the country during the war, and that when the history of our times is written General Pope will be vindicated from many of the aspersions cast upon him during the war.

Mr. Logan—Mr. President, I am very sorry to hear the criticisms that have been made upon General Pope. I do not intend to defend everything that he has done, but I do say that I believe he was a gallant officer and that he is an officer of great ability. I think he was harshly treated; I think he was, if I might use the word, crushed in the Army, as many men have been before, and as perhaps, many will be in the future, if we are to have great wars. I agree fully with the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Blair) in reference to the communications that passed between Generals Pope and Halleck. I do not believe one word of the statement published broadcast through the country in reference to a pretended despatch from General Pope as to the number of prisoners captured by him. I do not believe he ever sent such a despatch; I do not believe he ever made such a statement; and I do not believe General Halleck to-day could explain satisfactorily to the country how it was that he allowed that report to go before the country. But, sir, in reference to the proposition now before the Senate, I think the amount asked for is a little too large. If it were amenable in the position it now occupies I would offer an amendment to it.

Mr. Caldwell said he would accept a reduction of the amount asked for to \$250,000. In supporting this, Mr. Logan commended the general purpose of the amendment as a measure of wise economy, endorsing the remarks of previous speakers from his personal experience and knowledge. After much more discussion the amendment was laid on the table.

UNDER the act of Congress approved February 14, 1871, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to place on the pension roll the names of the surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, including militia and volunteers of the military and naval service of the United States who served sixty days in the war with Great Britain of 1812, provided they were loyal during the late rebellion, as well as the names of the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted and drafted men, provided such widow shall have been married prior to the treaty of peace which terminated said war to an officer or enlisted or drafted man who served in that war. The instruction of the Commissioner of Pensions having been promulgated the claims under the above provisions are being filed in large numbers. The number of claims presented for the week ending April 1, 1871, was 2,357, and Monday of this week the number filed was over 600.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PRUSSIAN STAFF.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Supposing that the following article on the Prussian staff organization, translated from an extract in the *Journal de Genève* of Sunday, February 26, 1871, from a memoir of Colonel Stoffel, the military resident of the French government at Berlin prior to the late Franco-German war, might be of interest to the officers of our own service, I would request for it an insertion in the JOURNAL.

The great want of our own Army during the late Rebellion was competent staff officers. I have been told that Generals McDowell and Pope at the second Bull Run were obliged, through this want, to stop on their line of retreat, and at cross-roads stand for a long time directing the line of march of the retreating columns.

Yours very respectfully,

F. A. MAHAN,

Second Lieutenant Engineers, U. S. Army.

WEST POINT, March 21, 1871.

Among the elements of superiority accorded to Prussia by Colonel Stoffel, in the case of a war with France, the altogether exceptional composition of its corps of staff officers is rightly placed in the foremost rank.

In France, as in most other countries, the staff forms a distinct and special portion of the army. An officer enters it after passing an examination, and, this ordeal passed, he remains, during his entire military career, a staff officer, unacquainted with any other military service than that immediately in the direct line of his duties.

The appointments into the Prussian staff are made on an entirely different principle—that is to say, on passing alternately from service with troops to service on the staff, and vice versa. This mechanism, which may at first appear complicated, is by no means so in practice. In all cases it is absolutely conformable to the laws of logic, and its regular system is of such a nature as to give to this higher corps, which is the brain of an army, all desirable competence and authority.

"It must be stated as an indisputable fact," says Colonel Stoffel, "that the Prussian staff is by far the finest in Europe, and, having given the mode of its formation and the principles on which it is founded, it will be easily understood why this corps should be so superior to the French staff."

"In Prussia there is neither law nor regulation relating to the composition of the staff. The fundamental proposition is a very true one, viz., that of all the officers of the army, those of the staff should be the most intelligent and best informed. If it be a matter of small importance that an officer commanding a company or squadron have but a slight degree of general military information, it is a very different matter when considering a staff officer. The great variety of his duties, the influence his reports may have on the decision of generals, especially at the present time of large armies operating on vast extents of country, require him to be a man of extended general information and of special fitness."

"The principle once admitted that, of all officers of the army, those of the staff must be the most capable, what has been done to facilitate its operation? It has been determined to take these officers from among those of the entire army, independently of the arm to which they belong, and to offer to young men special inducements in regard to promotion, reserving the right, however, of removing from the staff any of these officers at any time during their career if they do not give evidence of a suitable amount of zeal and fitness for the position. The consequence of these arrangements is simply this: only ambitious, intelligent, and hard-working young officers present themselves for admission into the staff; ambitious, because they desire more rapid advancement; intelligent and hard-working, because they are well aware that if they do not accomplish all that is required from them they become liable to be sent back to their old corps."

"In order to thoroughly comprehend the advantages accruing to staff officers, it must be remembered that in the Prussian army the only law of promotion is that of seniority. The King, to be sure, reserves the right of promoting any officer whatever to a higher grade; but as this is only done in very exceptional cases, it may be said that promotion comes only by seniority. Now, the officers admitted to the staff gain on an average seven or eight years on the other officers of the army."

"The army of the Confederation of Northern Germany, composed, as is well known, of *corps d'armee*, has a permanent chief of staff; this office is at present held by General von Moltke."

"He is, moreover, the almost absolute chief of the staff, considered as a separate corps; he selects the officers for admission and assigns their duties; he nominates them for promotion (the minister merely confirming the nomination); finally, he assigns them to the various duties in the army. His power is, so to speak, discretionary, and this arrangement, so little understood in France, here appears very simple, as much on account of the well-known ability and integrity of General von Moltke, as on account of the organization of the army in permanent corps."

"Any Lieutenant of any arm, after three years' service with his regiment, may present himself for admission to the war school (*Kriegs-Akademie*) at Berlin. This is a school of higher military education, unequalled in Europe either by the ability of its professors or by the nature and extent of its course of study. It is not a special staff school; its object is to cover a much larger field. It consists in familiarizing select and well-disposed officers with the higher branches of the art of war, by giving them a course of instruction which serves as a foundation for their future intellectual improvement, and which fits them for service in the staff and for high commands with troops."

"After a severe examination, at which about 120 Lieutenants, on an average, present themselves, 40 enter the school, all with a more or less well-defined intention of pursuing the career of a staff officer. The course of study is three years, beginning October 1."

"The first year's course lasts nine months, after which the officers return to their respective regiments, where they remain during the remaining three months and take part in the autumn drills."

"The same course is pursued the second year."

"In the third year the pupils receive the more special instruction to fit them for staff officers, and the tenth month is employed in making, preferably in a broken country and under the charge of the professors, what is called a staff journey; including reconnaissances, maps of the ground,

military sketches, encampments for troops, solving problems, etc.

"These three years past, all the lieutenants are sent, without any final examination or classification, to their regiments. The professors and director of the school name to General von Moltke those who have shown themselves the most capable and studious. Twelve of these are chosen, care being taken to have in this number officers from the different arms (infantry, cavalry, and artillery), and in the course of the year following their leaving the school, they are detached from their own regiments and sent to one of a different arm of the service for six or nine months. Those who during this period have shown the necessary zeal and fitness are accepted by General von Moltke, who orders them to Berlin for duty with the grand general staff. They preserve the uniform and position of officers of their special arms. The time spent by these officers with the grand general staff (from a year and a half to two years) is of the highest importance in their future career, for they are, as it were, in a special high school for the staff, the chief of which is General von Moltke himself. He, by instructing, learns to know and judge correctly of them. He takes care to familiarize them successively with the duties belonging to the six subdivisions which compose the grand general staff; he gives them lectures, causes them to prepare memoirs on such subjects as he deems proper, reads and criticizes these productions among the assembled officers, without, however, mentioning the authors, so as not to cause the less instructed to cool off or the more able to become conceited.

"After the stay of the officers with the grand general staff General von Moltke's choice is made, but without informing them. He might promote the best to the rank of staff officer, but to not discourage the others, they are all sent for the last time to their respective regiments.

"Some remain there and continue their career in their special arms, preserving only the memory of their trials undergone; the others are promoted after a few months to the rank of captain and designated as officers of the staff, the uniform of which they at once assume.

"General von Moltke always, as permanent major-general of the army, distributes these captains according to circumstances to the various duties to be performed. Some he keeps for the grand general staff, employing them on work for which they have shown a special aptitude, but the greater number he sends to the staffs of divisions, or *corps d'armee*, the special duties connected with each of which they have to learn. But care is taken here not to give more clerk's work to these officers to occupy their time. This work is done by non-commissioned officers and soldiers, under the supervision only of these officers, who may thus, the reverse of what obtains in France, give their time to duties more useful and more worthy of them.

"At the end of two years or two years and a half, these captains are detached from the staff, and to avoid bringing them into contact with their former regimental companions whom they have overstepped, they are assigned to some other regiment than the one they served in as lieutenants. There each one receives, according to his arm, the command of a company, squadron, or battery.

"After an average service of two years with troops they are promoted by choice to the rank of major (*chef d'escadron*), and resume the rank and uniform of staff officers. General von Moltke employs them as such, either in the various army staffs according to the requirements of the service, or at Berlin in the grand general staff.

"I will here ask particular attention to the system of frequent examinations and weeding out that the staff is subject to; for if it were found that any of the captains employed in the grand general staff, or on the staffs of divisions or *corps d'armee*, had lost their interest, or that their general worth had been placed at too high a figure, they would not be appointed majors (*chefs d'escadron*); they would remain on duty with their respective arms, without ever being again employed as staff officers.

"Having reached the rank of major (*chef d'escadron*), staff officers have no longer as formerly any special advantages; but what is worthy of notice is this, that they are in every grade required to serve at least one year in their corps exclusively of the staff, before they can hope for promotion. Thus a year or so before his appointment as lieutenant-colonel, the major (*commandant*) of the staff actually has command of a battalion or of several squadrons or batteries; in like manner, a lieutenant-colonel is placed at the head of a regiment of infantry, cavalry, or artillery, a year before he is promoted to his colonelcy.

"These officers then do not lose their skill on horseback, nor in commanding troops.

"But the great care taken to make the staff a *corps d'elite* does not end here. The officers mentioned above all come from the same source: 12 of the 40 pupils admitted to the war school from the 120 applicants are chosen. Now it is very certain that among the numerous lieutenants in the army of less than three years' standing, there are some distinguished ones who for some reason or other did not apply themselves at the school, and even among the 80 excluded ones there may have been some able men; it is not desirable to neglect this last opportunity for securing good officers for the staff, and they are procured as follows:

"The colonels of the army are invited to name to the generals, and these to General von Moltke, the officers of their regiments distinguished by the extent of their acquirements, their professional aptitude; and it must be said that on this point care must be taken to moderate rather than to increase the zeal of chiefs of corps, who ordinarily desire to promote their own officers and make them appear better than the others. General von Moltke sends to the officers named questions to be studied and problems to be solved, and, if he discovers them fit, orders them to the grand general staff. If they there show to him that they possess really good qualities, General von Moltke appoints them staff officers and employs them as such. Otherwise they are returned to their regiments, where for some time they are the butt of their comrades' jokes.

"I have already said that in corps and division staffs, the clerk's work, a poor kind of occupation for an officer, is performed by non-commissioned officers and soldiers, thus allowing the officers to employ their time more usefully. In fact, outside of their special duties the generals give them military questions to study; and every year the corps chief of staff takes a staff journey with all the officers to confirm or extend the knowledge they have already acquired. The officers of the grand general staff at Berlin also take, under the direction of General von Moltke himself, a similar journey, sometimes in one province, sometimes in another, the length of which is from a fortnight to three weeks.

"It must be seen from what precedes what are the reasons of the superiority of the Prussian staff: first, the choice is made among all the lieutenants of the army, regardless of arm; second, only ambitious, intelligent, and hard-working

officers present themselves—ambitious because they desire more rapid promotion, intelligent and hard-working because they know that, during their whole career, they are subject to a system of weeding out and to incessant work.

"It is thus, by starting from the self-evident principle that staff officers must be the *elite* of the army, and applying it with the assistance of the simple means of an advantage offered to staff officers in the way of promotion, Prussia has succeeded in organizing the best instructed staff in Europe. The more opportunities I have for comparing it with ours, the more I am struck with its superiority—not that our staff does not contain officers as distinguished as the best of the Prussian staff, but the latter contains no mediocrity; and how many, on the contrary, are there in ours, whose instruction is more than insufficient? How many are there among us who do not understand a map, who have no knowledge of the manoeuvres of the various arms, who have never studied a modern campaign, who finally (as was seen in 1859) do not even know how to choose a suitable encampment for a brigade of infantry or a regiment of cavalry? With the Prussians there is none of this. Such officers would not be admitted to the staff, or if they were, would be put out so soon as their incapacity was discovered.

"It is not for me to point out the means of raising the standard of our staff; but I seek in vain for some principle employed as a basis of organization. Do we consider, as in Prussia, that staff officers should be the *elite* of the army? By no means. With us the procuring of officers for the staff is left to the chance of a single examination passed at the age of twenty-one, since we take them, as a rule, from among the first of the graduates from Saint Cyr.

"Speaking truly, what is there to guarantee in the slightest degree for an entire career, that, according to the Prussian doctrine, admits of no mediocrity, a sound judgment, a marked taste for the work, and superior abilities? And yet these young men are, and will be, until their death or retirement, staff officers. What difference does it make if, after they leave the school, they show no taste for a military life, but give themselves up to idleness, and live on in their ignorance? We shall trust in war to these officers, incapable and disgusted with duties requiring the greatest energy, the greatest judgment, and the most extended knowledge. This, however, is the way we manage, without any principle whatever. How differently these important duties are looked on in Prussia. There idleness or mediocrity may be excused in any officer outside the staff. And, speaking only of physical qualities, will there be found here, as in France, officers not in condition to ride a league at full speed? I know pretty well what relates to the Prussian staff, and I know that General von Moltke would exclude from this corps on the spot any officer unfit for duty on horseback.

"In general—and it would be well to remember it in France—the greatest care is here taken in all things, civil and military, to have the details of organization and execution approach as nearly as possible to perfection. This care is particularly taken with the army. It is the constant application of the principle left by Frederick the Great to his successors—'Prussia must be always on the lookout.' Were I allowed to make use of a comparison taken from the turf, I should say that the Prussian nation is, in all respects, going at a dead run.

"It is not my intention to dwell on all the defective details peculiar to our staff corps, under the double head of organization and instruction, but it is simply to show the reasons why the Prussian staff is so much better than ours. However, one cannot help feeling sorry when one considers the number of officers who, in France, have to spend whole years, those in which a man is in the full enjoyment of all his faculties, in a staff office, occupied only in such office duty as could be just as well done by any intelligent non-commissioned officer. What time, what intelligence, wasted."

After this complete *expose* of facts, the clearness of which can leave no room for indecision, Colonel Stoffel concludes that it is necessary to perfect the French staff, and to make it, as in Prussia, the true *elite* of the army.

This conclusion, the perfect justice of which has been proved by the war of 1870, is not addressed alone to France, and all the armies of Europe may profit by it. This alternation between service in the staff and with troops seems to be a most admirable arrangement; and we are not surprised that fine minds, desiring to perfect our military organization, should have wished to introduce it into the Swiss army. It is possible that the system of an army of militia, the term of whose service and instruction is very short, does not admit of a complete application of this principle; but it is at least worth while to examine how far we may apply to ourselves the lessons taught by the experiences of this campaign to us in common with the whole of Europe. And of all the reforms to be accomplished, we know of none more useful than the perfecting of the duties of the staff.

DEATH OF A VETERAN OFFICER.

MAJOR Myers, who recently died in Schoenectady, N. Y., was born on the 1st of May, 1776; was educated in New York city, and resided for several years at Richmond in Virginia. There he served in a military company, under Colonel (afterward Chief-Justice) Marshall. He soon returned to New York, engaged in business there, and served in an artillery company under the command of Captain John Swartwout. He was afterward commissioned as a captain of infantry, and for two years studied military tactics assiduously, under Monsieur De la Croix, who was a military authority at that period, especially in the sword exercise, and whose wife was the keeper of the once celebrated Vauxhall Garden. When war was threatened he was active in raising volunteer companies, and in March, 1812, he was commissioned a captain in the Thirtieth Infantry, and ordered to report to Colonel Peter B. Schuyler at Greenbush Barracks, near Albany, and with his regiment joined General Wilkinson's army in the invasion of Canada. During the boisterous weather which assailed General Wilkinson's expedition from Sackett's Harbor in October, 1813, Captain Myers was very active in saving lives and property. At the battle of Chrysler's Field, a bullet passed through Captain Myers's arm near the shoulder, while at the head of his men, in assailing the British behind a stone wall. The desperation of the encounter may be conceived when the fact is stated that of eighty-nine men he lost twenty-three. Being in command of the boat guard of the expedition, he did not join the attack until the fortune of the day seemed to be in jeopardy. A portion of his epaulette being driven into the wound rendered his recovery tedious and un-

certain, and crippled his arm for life. During the war he performed laborious and gallant services under several commanders in the Northern Department, and in 1815 the disability produced by his wound caused him to be disbanded and placed on the pension roll for the half pay of a captain. Thus ended his military career. He was the oldest as well as the last surviving officer of the old Thirtieth regiment, of which the late Major-General Wool was senior captain.

Major Myers represented New York city in the Legislature of the State for six years, and served two terms as mayor of Schoenectady; and was a candidate for Congress when eighty-four years of age. He was present at the inauguration of Washington as President by Chancellor Livingston, and retained a vivid recollection of that event. He was probably one of the oldest Masons in the country, having been a member of the fraternity for nearly seventy-five years. He took a high rank among the fraternity, having been Grand Master and Grand High Priest, respectively, of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of this State.

The Schoenectady Times, to whom we are indebted for most of these facts, says: "Major Myers was in many respects a remarkable man. He was possessed of a clear mind, strong will, and the fact that, with all the hardships incident to the life of a soldier in the war of 1812, he lived to be nearly ninety-six years of age, is proof that he possessed a strong and robust constitution. His physical appearance was striking. No stranger ever met or passed him on the street without being struck with his appearance, being of large proportions, and having a remarkably clear and keen black eye that gave evidence of the strong intellectual power of the man. As mayor of this city he added dignity to the office, and brought all the power of his strong common sense and an indomitable will to bear against wrong, and in favor of right and justice."

THE following is the President's message transmitting the report of the San Domingo Commissioners:

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

I have the honor to submit herewith to the two houses of Congress the report of the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of the joint resolution approved January 12, 1871. It will be observed that this report more than sustains all that I have heretofore said in regard to the productiveness and healthfulness of the Republic of San Domingo, and the unanimity of the people for annexation to the United States, and of their peaceable character.

It is due to the public, as it certainly is to myself, that I should here give all the circumstances which first led to the negotiation of a treaty for the annexation of the Republic of San Domingo to the United States. When I accepted the arduous and responsible position which I now hold, I did not dream of instituting any steps for the acquisition of insular possessions. I believed, however, that our institutions were broad enough to extend over the entire continent as rapidly as other peoples might desire to bring themselves under our protection. I believed, further, that we should not permit any independent government within the limits of North America to pass from a condition of independence to one of ownership, or protection, under a European power. Soon after my inauguration as President, I was waited upon by an agent of President Baez, with a proposition to annex the Republic of San Domingo to the United States. This gentleman represented the capacity of the island, the desire of the people, and their character and habits, about as they have been described by the Commissioners whose report accompanies this message. He stated, further, that, being weak in numbers and poor in purse, they were not capable of developing their great resources; that the people had no incentive to industry on account of lack of protection for their accumulations; and that if not accepted by the United States, with institutions which they loved above those of any other nation, they would be compelled to seek protection elsewhere. To these statements I made no reply, and gave no indication of what I thought of the proposition. In the course of time I was waited upon by a second gentleman from San Domingo, who made the same representations, and who was received in like manner. In view of the facts which had been laid before me, and with an earnest desire to maintain the Monroe doctrine, I believed that I would be derelict in my duty if I did not take measures to ascertain the exact wish of the government and the inhabitants of the Republic of San Domingo in regard to annexation, and communicate the information to the people of the United States. Under the attending circumstances, I felt that if I turned a deaf ear to this appeal I might in the future be justly charged with a flagrant neglect of the public interests, and utter disregard of the welfare of a down-trodden race, praying for the blessings of a free and strong government, and for protection in the enjoyment of the fruits of their own industry. Those opponents of annexation who have heretofore professed to be pre-eminently the friends of the rights of man I believed would be my most violent assailants if I neglected so clear a duty. Accordingly, after having appointed a commissioner to visit the island, who declined on account of sickness, I selected a second gentleman, in whose capacity, judgment, and integrity I had, and have yet, the most unbounded confidence. He visited San Domingo, not to secure or hasten annexation, but, unprejudiced and unbiased, to learn all the facts about the government, the people, and the resources of that republic. He went certainly as well prepared to make an unfavorable report as a favorable one, if the facts warranted it. His report fully corroborated the views of previous commissioners, and upon its receipt I felt that a sense of duty and a due regard for our great national interests required me to negotiate a treaty for the acquisition of the Republic of San Domingo. As soon as it became publicly known that such a treaty had been negotiated, the attention of the country was occupied with allegations calculated to prejudice the merits of the case, and of those whose duty had connected them with it. Amid the public excitement thus created the treaty failed to receive the requisite two-thirds vote of the Senate, and was rejected. But whether the action of that body was based wholly upon the merits of the treaty, or might not have been in some degree influenced by such unfounded allegations as could not be known by the people, because the debates of the Senate in secret session are not published, I will not venture an assertion. Under these circumstances, I deemed it due to the office which I hold, and due to the character of the agents who had been charged with the investigation, that such proceedings should be had as would enable the people to know the truth. A Commission was therefore constituted, under authority of Congress, consisting of gentlemen selected with special reference to their high character and capacity for the laborious work entrusted to them, who were instructed to visit the spot and report upon the facts. Other eminent citizens were requested to accompany the Commission, in order that the people might have the benefit of their views. Students of science and correspondents of the press, without regard to political opinions, were invited to join the expedition, and their numbers were limited only by the capacity of the vessel.

The mere rejection by the Senate of a treaty negotiated by the President only indicates a difference of opinion of the Government, without touching the character or wounding the pride of either. But when such rejection takes place simultaneously with charges openly made of corruption on the part of the President or of those employed by him, the case is different. Indeed, in such case the honor of the nation demands investigation. This has been accomplished by the report of the Commissioners herewith transmitted, and which fully vindicates the purity of motives and action of those who represented the United States in the negotiation. And now my task is finished, and with it ends all personal solicitude upon the subject. My duty being done, yours begins, and I gladly hand over the whole matter to the judgment of the American people and of their representatives in Congress assembled.

The facts will now be spread before the country, and a decision rendered by that tribunal whose convictions so rarely err, and against whose will I have no policy to enforce. My opinion remains unchanged; indeed, it is confirmed by the report that the

interests of our country and of San Domingo alike invite the annexation of the republic. In view of the difference of opinion upon this subject I suggest that no action be taken at the present session beyond the printing and general dissemination of the report. Before the next session of Congress the people will have considered the subject, and formed an intelligent opinion concerning it, to which opinion, deliberately made up, it will be the duty of every department of the Government to give heed, and no one will more cheerfully conform to it than myself. It is not only the theory of our Constitution that the will of the people constitutionally expressed is the supreme law, but I have ever believed that all men are wiser than any one man; and if the people upon a full presentation of the facts shall decide that the annexation of the republic is not desirable, every department of the Government ought to acquiesce in that decision.

In again submitting to Congress a subject upon which public sentiment has been divided, and which has been made the occasion of acrimonious debates in Congress, as well as unjust aspersions elsewhere, I may, I trust, be indulged in a single remark. No man can hope to perform duties so delicate and responsible as pertain to the Presidential office, without sometimes incurring the hostility of those who deem their opinions and wishes treated with insufficient consideration; and he who undertakes to conduct the affairs of a great government as a faithful public servant, if sustained by the approval of his own conscience, may rely with confidence upon the candor and intelligence of a free people, whose best interests he has striven to subserve, and can bear with patience the censure of disappointed men.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, April 5, 1871.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

THE SEVENTH'S LAST.—The final battalion drill of the season in this well-known command occurred on Monday evening with the assembly of the left wing, comprising companies I, B, F, K, and E. The wing was divided into ten commands having an equalization of ten files front. Company B, Captain Van Orden, paraded the strongest of this wing, and gave a detail of nine and one-half files. The battalion drills of the Seventh have invariably been the occasion of attracting a numerous attendance of spectators, but these two last of the regiment have been made still more attractive by the presence of the regimental band under the redoubtable Grafulla. The music divided the applause with the movements of the drill, and undoubtedly assisted greatly in bringing together the crowd of spectators which filled the armory to its utmost limits. As only a small space in the eastern portion of the drill-room had been reserved for spectators, it became necessary for those who wished to witness the beautiful evolutions of the Seventh to be present long in advance of the opening of the drill. These assemblies have been made entirely public, no tickets having been issued, and no special effort made to induce attendance. Those present, therefore, were in the main the families and particular friends of the regiment. At the drill of the right wing held last week, the crowd was so great and so far beyond the expectation of those in command, that none of the necessary precautions to prevent confusion had been instituted; therefore, when the time approached for the companies to ascend to the drill-room, they found much difficulty in crowding their way through the closely-packed assemblage that had gathered on the stairways. Much confusion and its consequent excitement ensued, which in a few instances ended unpleasantly. At the drill of the left wing, however, better means had been employed to keep the passages free. A detailed guard of fourteen files and an efficient force of police, with due courtesy to all, prevented improper crowding during drill. At least one-third of the seats were filled by ladies long before the gas was lighted. At a little past seven o'clock every available seat was occupied, so that by the time the assembly was beaten all the limited space for spectators was more than filled. The band, meanwhile, had stationed itself near the southern stairway and begun its sweet discourse, which was frequently applauded, and only ceased after the formation was made under the direction of Adjutant and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzgerald. Colonel Emmons Clark was in command, Major Smith filling the place of Lieutenant-Colonel Haws until the arrival of that officer, which occurred soon after the drill had begun. The drill was excellent, and equal in every respect, with the exception perhaps of marchings and firings, to the drill of the right wing witnessed by us on the 17th ult. Of the last right wing drill we cannot speak, for we like many others were deprived of the opportunity of witnessing it. During the drill, we observed that Colonel Clark adopted the commendable plan of obtaining steadiness, regular cadence of step, and general precision of execution, by the continuous execution of marching in column of fours, fours right and left about, and right and left into line. These exercises were practised for at least a half hour before any more complicated movements were undertaken. By this means the men gradually got so "warmed up" that even a casual observer could detect the improvement in their action as the drill progressed. The movements at this drill were generally similar to those of the previous drills, not omitting the formation and reduction of square, which latter by the way cannot be excelled for beauty of execution or general smoothness. The wheelings were exceedingly well done; also breaking by fours to right and left, both of which received well-deserved applause. The loadings and firings were generally well done, although in two instances in firing by wing several inattentive members fired before the command was given. These occurred, we think, on the extreme right of the right wing and in the third company of the left wing. The other members of both wings deserve high commendation for their excellent steadiness and attention when these errors occurred, for there was every excuse for a scattering fire, which would have still more marred the execution. There is one peculiarity particularly noticeable at the formation of this as well as other regiments in the National Guard; it is the many

different styles and tones of voice adopted by commandants of companies in giving their orders. It must be confessed that it is a difficult task for an officer having a tenor to utter sounds similar to one having a bass voice; still, more clearness and force should be generally displayed in giving these commands. The Tactics direct that the preparatory command should be given in "a clear and firm voice, dwelling on the last syllable," while the command of execution should be pronounced "in a tone firm and brief." The general tone of commands should be "animated, distinct, and of a loudness in proportion to the number of men under instruction." At a dress parade or regimental formation, especially before a large audience and when all is "quiet along the line," and when the guides have been posted, the various styles of giving the commands in the manual by company officers become very obvious oftentimes, as well as amusing; as it did on the occasion of this drill, when the audience was particularly good-natured and ready for the slightest cause for a general titter. On these occasions many officers become nervous and give evidence of this fact in their every command. One officer will give the preparatory and command of execution in the same tone and style; others will dwell on both; another will issue forth a deep bass tone, followed immediately by one with a piping voice or a shrill tenor, all of which cannot help but be amusing to the general spectator. Very few officers understand the proper intonation of the voice in the command of execution, especially in the manual. For instance the word "arms" is pronounced by some exactly as it is spelled, at other times officers will say "Carry—HUMP" or "UMP," and one at this drill said "Carry—HEMP," which was the cause of a general "smile" among the spectators. This command is not intended to be given exactly as it is spelled, but should come from the chest, and by an easy effort at expelling the breath and opening well the mouth, so that the sound when uttered would be like "harms." A little practice on the part of officers would soon overcome this difficulty, and render their commands more uniform in style. We observe that Adjutant Fitzgerald at the dismissal, after saluting the commandant, after the first sergeants have reported, says, "Sir, all are present or accounted for," which is strictly correct, but we notice seldom observed by the majority of adjutants. At the termination of the drill the members and their friends indulged in a short promenade to excellent music, and the successful drill and concert closed just in time to catch the vast audience in an April shower, which rather put a "damp" on the spirits of those who had not provided carriages. Verily, the rain seems to follow the Seventh with singular pertinacity.

NINTH INFANTRY.—In consequence of the anticipated visit of this command to Boston in June next, weekly drills by companies will be continued until June 1. Commandants of companies are ordered to pay strict attention to the manual of arms, including the loadings and firings, as laid down in Upton's Tactics, and they will see that none but well-drilled men are allowed to accompany the regiment on the Boston trip. General Orders state that "the practice of drilling recruits with the company is a bad one, and must be discontinued. Squads will be at once formed in which all members who are not thoroughly drilled will be placed, and instructed with particular care by the commandant, assisted by his non-commissioned officers." So much of General Orders No. 1, dated January 10, 1871, from these headquarters, as requires drills by divisions on April 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28, is countermanded. Drills of the regiment by wings, in full fatigue uniform, white cross and body belts, will be held as follows, viz.: Right wing (companies A, F, H, I, and K), April 25; left wing (companies B, C, D, E, and G), April 26. Roll call of companies at 7:45 o'clock P. M. Line will be formed at 8 o'clock P. M. precisely. Field and non-commissioned staff will report for duty on both occasions. As these drills are for instruction, they will be strictly private, and no one will be allowed in the large drill-room excepting members in uniform and commissioned officers of the regiment. The members of this regiment are directed to assemble at the armory in full-dress uniform, with knapsacks and blankets rolled thereon, for inspection, May 15. Roll call of companies at 7:45 o'clock P. M. General Orders also state that "commandants of companies will see that their men are well instructed in slinging and unslinging knapsacks prior to the inspection. Knapsacks can be procured from the quartermaster at the cost price (\$4 50), and every member is expected to provide himself with one at once." The committee having charge of the first annual parade and celebration of the organization of Company K have decided on the following programme: The company will assemble at the armory on Wednesday evening, April 12, in full-dress uniform, white cross and body belts, white gloves, at 7:30 o'clock P. M., with the invited guests from other companies, to the extent of five from each. The line of march will be down Fifth avenue to Fourteenth street, through Fourteenth street to Broadway, around Union Square to and through Fourteenth street to Fifth avenue, up Fifth avenue to Thirty-fourth street, to Madison avenue, down Madison avenue to Twenty-third street, through Twenty-third street to place of serenade. Company orders direct that "during the serenade the company will be drawn up in line, arms stacked, and at 'in place rest.' After the serenade line will be formed behind stacks, and the command will return to the armory to dismiss." The committee having the arrangements in charge consists of Captain Bird W.

Spencer, Chairman, Lieutenant A. P. Bacon, Sergeant Geo. W. Palfrey, Sergeant J. W. S. Aspell, Private J. V. Robertson, and Private T. J. C. Richardson.

FIRST INFANTRY.—This regiment is ordered to assemble in fatigue uniform at the State Arsenal, April 12, for battalion drill. Roll call at 8 o'clock. Field and staff will report to the colonel, and the non-commissioned staff and drum corps to the adjutant, at the same hour. The commissioned and non-commissioned officers will assemble at the armory in fatigue uniform, April 7, for practical and theoretical instruction. R. Livingston Luckey has been appointed adjutant of this regiment, vice Clark, promoted.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL AND SPRING INSPECTIONS.—We observe that Albany regiments are holding special inspections preparatory, it is said, to a general inspection and muster this spring. We can scarcely believe this last announcement. We have always favored the spring as the only proper season of the year for the State to hold the general inspection and muster of its troops. At this season of the year the different and various branches of the service, after a continuous drill of several months, are better prepared to exhibit the degree of proficiency they have required during that time than any other portion of the year. Our jovial friend, General McQuade, the State Inspector-General, contends, however, that the best time to look at the troops is when they are least proficient in drill and unprepared for a minute inspection. His argument is that the State troops should be ready for inspection at all times. Now this would be well in the Army or among troops who usually drill the year round, but in the National Guard great preparations for inspection at all seasons cannot be expected. It is not reasonable to expect men who have been absent from the drill-room and consequent practice in the duties of the soldier for several months to assemble for the ceremony of inspection and the execution of the battalion movements, at short notice, in anything like the condition they would exhibit just after a long practice during the winter. Both officers and men naturally become rusty, and every fall inspection thus far held has shown this in many ways. We cannot understand why the troops should not show to better advantage on the occasion of an annual inspection than any other time. But General McQuade stoutly adheres to his position, and the annual inspections will undoubtedly continue to be held in the fall of the year, unless, indeed, we succeed in convincing him by repeated arguments that he is wrong.

SEVENTH INFANTRY.—In view of the popularity and success of the promenade concerts given by this regiment in former years, it has been proposed and decided to give a full-dress promenade concert at the Academy of Music on Thursday evening, April 13. The concert will commence at 8 o'clock P. M. and conclude at 10; dancing will then commence and be continued until 1 o'clock A. M. The price of tickets will be five dollars, and each ticket will admit a gentleman and ladies. The number of tickets is limited, and it is desirable that they should be taken, as far as possible, by the active and veteran members of this regiment. The distribution of the tickets will receive the careful supervision of the music committee, Major George Moore Smith, Quartermaster R. M. Weed, and Lieutenant James C. Abrams, and the co-operation of every active and veteran member is earnestly solicited. By reason of the faithful and distinguished services of the Seventh regiment band, under the direction of C. S. Grafulla, for a period of over eleven years, it has been decided that the proceeds, after deducting expenses of this concert, shall be for the benefit of the members of the band. Members of the regiment are requested to appear in full uniform; veteran members are requested to wear the badge of the association. Citizens will attend in evening dress.

SIXTH INFANTRY.—General Orders announce that "Captain Charles H. Raynor, assistant commissary of subsistence, having been assigned to this regiment for duty, will be obeyed and respected accordingly." Corporals Adam Gerlach and William Hannisch, Company E, having been reduced to the ranks for "continued neglect of duty," the action of the company is approved by Colonel Sterry, the regimental commandant.

FIRST REGIMENT CAVALRY.—This command is ordered to assemble in fatigue uniform for drill and instruction at the regimental armory, in the upper drill rooms, at 8 o'clock P. M., as follows: Troops G and K, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel John Madden, April 18 and 25; Troops D, F, and B, under command of Major Joseph Fleischel, April 19 and 26; Troops E, C, and A, under command of Major John H. Timmerman—the orders do not say when. This regiment will be formed hereafter and until further orders as follows: G, K, D, F, B, C, E, A. John Willis has been appointed sergeant-major and John J. Cloren sergeant standard-bearer. The following members have been dropped from the roll of Troop S (?) for not performing their duty: Emil These, Jeremiah Buckley, Jeremiah Coffey, James Callen, Bernard Costello, Patrick Carey, Michael Garvin, John Godwin, William Joyce, Michael Kear, Charles Mills, William McLaughlin (Thomas Reilly, No. 2), John H. Burke, James Kelly, and Michael McCormick. Sergeant Martin Horan and Samuel Dennison, at their own requests, are returned to the ranks. The following members have been dropped from the roll of Troop K for non-performance of duty: Henry Borgers, August Wessel, Fred. Otto, and Charles Alberst.

[The General Orders making the above announcements are

anything but creditable to the colonel or adjutant, and we are charitable enough to infer that these officers, being Germans, have not a thorough comprehension of the English language and little knowledge as to the arrangement of military documents.]

THE GERMAN PEACE FESTIVAL.—The larger portion of the German organizations of New York and adjacent cities will unite in celebrating the triumph of the fatherland in the late war with the French by a grand parade on Monday next.

The First division, composed of all German National Guard organizations in the city, Brevet Brigadier-General John E. Bendix commanding, will form on Thirteenth street, east of and right resting on Third avenue, in the following order: Captain Karl Klein's Independent Troop as escort to the grand marshal; Third regiment Cavalry, Colonel J. H. Budke; Fifth regiment Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Kraeger; Sixth regiment Infantry, Colonel F. W. Sterry; Eleventh regiment Infantry, Col. G. Funk; Fifty-fifth regiment (battalion), Major C. W. Fuller; First regiment (battalion), Captain Bartmann; Ninety-sixth regiment Infantry, Colonel Krehbiel; Battery B, Artillery, Captain John Keim; Battery K, Artillery, Captain J. Heubner. John Sattig is acting adjutant-general to the marshal, and the following is a portion of the details contained in General Orders received up to going to press:

The Fifth Infantry, Colonel and Brevet Brigadier-General Bendix, is ordered to parade in full uniform on Monday next to celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson (after whom it received its designation as the "Jefferson Guard"), and also to join the peace festival procession of the Germans. Line will be formed in Hester street, opposite the armory, at 9:30 o'clock A. M. Field and staff (mounted) will report to the commandant. Non-commissioned staff, band and drum corps will report to the adjutant at the armory, at 9 o'clock A. M. The colonel urges "every member of the regiment to be present, as the Fifth must be second to no other organization on an occasion of this character."

The Sixth Infantry is ordered to parade in full uniform (white belts and gloves), to take part in the grand procession. Roll call of companies at the armory at 9:30 o'clock A. M. Field and staff (mounted) will report to the commandant at his residence, and non-commissioned staff, band, and drum corps, to the adjutant, at the armory, at the same hour. Line will be formed in Irving Place (right on Fourteenth street) at 10 o'clock A. M.

Several companies of the *First Infantry* will also participate in the peace festival. These companies, we learn, comprise B, E, and H, respectively commanded by Captains Rassaig, Langbein, and Bathmann. These companies cordially invite other members of the regiment to unite with them on this occasion. The companies will assemble at the regimental armory at 9 o'clock A. M.

The First regiment Cavalry, Colonel Henry Brinker, is ordered to parade mounted, in full uniform, with the recently adopted hats, on Monday, April 10. The assembly will take place in Second avenue, between Second and Third streets, at 10 o'clock A. M. Every member on the roll is ordered to parade; and those who are not provided with the new uniform and helmet will parade with the old uniform and hat. Fine for non-attendance, \$10.

The Third regiment Cavalry, Colonel J. H. Budke, will parade (mounted) in its new full-dress uniform, with white gloves (the new hussar front jackets and the new fur hats, the horses to be fully equipped with the new saddle cloth), to take part in the peace celebration (*Friedensfeier*). The assembly will be at Irving Place. Regimental line will be formed at 9:30 o'clock A. M., right on Fifteenth street. The field and staff will report to the colonel on the ground at the time of formation. The non-commissioned staff and band will report to the adjutant fifteen minutes before formation. The third sergeant of each troop will report at the regimental armory for the company guidons, and bring them to the ground. The color-bearers and regimental markers will receive the colors on the ground. General Orders state that "any officer or private appearing in a uniform not according to the new bill of dress will not be allowed to parade, and will be returned as absent, and that the fine for non-attendance will be \$10." Non-commissioned officers and privates who have not yet received their saddle cloths or who are without saddle and bridle are ordered to report to their captains at the armory on Friday evening, the 7th inst., at 8 o'clock, to receive them, as no one will be allowed to parade without a saddle cloth.

The following commands of the Second division will take part in the peace festival in Brooklyn: *The Twenty-eighth Infantry*, Colonel Burger, ordered to assemble at 10 A. M., at the regimental armory; *The Thirty-second Infantry*, Colonel Roehr, at 11:20 o'clock A. M., at the armory corner Bushwick Boulevard and Stagg street, in full fatigue and white gloves; the troop attached to the Eleventh brigade, Captain Kreuscher, at 9 A. M., at the above-mentioned armory; also Captain Wackermann's battery at the same place and hour. These organizations, under Colonel Burger, will comprise the first division of the grand procession.

FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.—The excitement which for the past few weeks has exercised this command relative to the selection of an officer to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Lieutenant-Colonel Geary, culminated on Tuesday evening last. The election was first ordered for Saturday evening, a week ago, but afterwards postponed by a resolution of the Board of Officers, and was finally held as

above, Brigadier-General Meserole presiding. Major A. H. Rogers, the next in rank, and Captain George Orton, of Company D, were the candidates. The first ballot resulted in a tie (10 and 10); but, on the second ballot, Captain Orton was elected by one majority, one of the officers having left after the first ballot from indisposition. The scene during and after the election was exceedingly exciting, and in one or two instances came near resulting unpleasantly and prejudicial to the interests of the regiment; but the officers finally restrained their feelings, the defeated acquiesced with good grace in the result, and the meeting soon afterwards adjourned. The rank and file took an active part in the canvass, and were almost unanimously for the defeated field officer; they therefore were exceedingly chagrined at the result. They manifested their feelings in a turbulent manner, and at one time threatened to refuse to parade or obey future or present orders of their superiors. Major Rogers, who was called for by their loud and frequent cheers, finally remonstrated with them successfully, and the men returned to their homes. There are many little issues in connection with this election to which perhaps is not best to refer specifically; and we regret exceedingly that so bitter a feeling has been engendered in so good a command. Major Rogers has now been "jumped" or defeated twice for this position; and, without pretending to be prejudiced in the least in this matter, we think he was justly entitled to the position, by the rule of rotation in office if for nothing else. Where an officer is competent in every way, and has proved his competency, it is bad policy to place a junior officer over him twice in succession. "Put yourself in his place," gentlemen of the Forty-seventh.

On Wednesday evening the regimental armory was filled to its utmost capacity by a select audience, assembled to witness the presentation of a stand of colors, the gift of the State, to this command, and a review and competitive drill between the wings, and lastly to engage in a dance, a large number being present. The members had become somewhat subdued by a night's rest; and during the military "operations" of this evening the command appeared to better advantage than it has for some time past, the men being particularly on their "mettle" on this occasion. The equalization having been made on the lower floor, the regiment at 20 minutes to 9 o'clock ascended to the drill-room, parading a strength of eight commands of twelve files. Colonel Austen commanded, assisted by Major Rogers. The members in full-dress uniforms appeared unusually well. After the formation (in which the adjutant endeavored to open the ranks by commanding, "To the rear, open order," and which order the rear rank found impossible to execute because of the excessive crowd in the rear), Colonel Austin introduced Brigadier-General William M. Tweed, Jr., Engineer-in-Chief on the staff of Governor Hoffman, who, in a brief and complimentary address, presented on behalf of the State a handsome stand of United States and State colors. Colonel Austen replied with characteristic eloquence; and as the colors were placed in line, they were greeted, not with music, but with loud applause. A review then followed, Brigadier-General Meserole, the Eleventh brigade commander, accompanied by General Tweed, receiving the same. The standing and passage in review, which latter, perhaps, might as well have been omitted, was very well conducted, considering the circumstances, as the majority of the companies for want of room were compelled to halt almost opposite the position of the reviewing officer. The review over, the competitive drill between the wings of the regiment took place, the left wing, comprising Companies D, E, I, and C, standing at *In place, rest*, while the right wing, comprising Companies G, F, A, and B, manoeuvred, and *vice versa*. We have not space for details, but will merely state that both wings, with all the disadvantages of a crowded space, did exceedingly well. The right wing excelled the left in its general steadiness and marchings, while the left wing was considerably ahead in the manual and a few other general details. Yet the regiment, as a whole, deserves much praise for its spirit and careful attention to duty, with one exception. At the conclusion of the drill, and after the regimental dismissal, the members of the various companies, with but few exceptions, commenced a series of cheers for the junior field officer, and groans and other unseemly sounds for the officers of the regiment. Such a radical breach of good discipline is unworthy of good soldiers or sober and respectable men. The feeling engendered by the election was not enough to excuse such disregard for authority. After the final dismissal, one of the delightful features of the entertainment was the carrying bodily of Major Rogers into the main-drill room, on the shoulders of several men in uniform, followed by at least fifty others, who, like wild animals, pushed their way up stairs to the injury of the ladies and all others who blocked the passage. Let us hope that such unsoldierly conduct will never again occur in so deserving a command as the Forty-seventh regiment. It lacked the element of real fun, and was in lamentable taste.

BATTALION ORGANIZATION.—We have received the following letter in reply to our remarks of a recent date relative to the organization of a battalion. There is some force in what our correspondent says, and we publish his theory for the general benefit of the service:

NEW YORK, March 29, 1871.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In your issue of the 25th inst. I observed quite an elaborate article on "Battalion Organization," in which your correspondent wishes to make the eight-company formation thus: 1-4, 7-3, 5-8, 6-2, instead of 1-5, 7-3, 4-8, 6-2, making the fourth captain in rank waive his right to command a division in favor of the fifth in rank, on the frivolous pretext that in double column the first division would be composed of the third and fourth companies. Why it is more objectionable that the first division should be composed of the third and fourth companies, than that the second di-

vision should consist of the seventh and eighth companies (the two junior), or the fourth division of the first and second companies, does not appear. The "more simple and perfect organization" of your correspondent appears to me more complex.

A battalion being composed of an even number of companies, one-half of its captains will find themselves senior to the others; therefore the battalion will be so formed that each of the former will find himself in command of a division. This would no longer be a rule were the proposed innovation adopted. *Quæstio non movetur.* R. W. L.

TWELFTH INFANTRY.—The annual reception of Company G, Captain McGowan, held at the new regimental armory on the evening of the 4th inst., was one of the most enjoyable and elegant in its general appointments ever given by this excellent command. The spacious drill-room was tastefully decorated, and the general elegance of its fixed adornments and the superb toilets of the ladies gave everything a happy and enticing appearance. These, with the unusually courteous attentions on the part of the officers and members, made the ball attractive to guests, who even at its termination were loath to leave.

VARIOUS ITEMS.—The Twenty-second Infantry held its first public drill (right wing) at the regimental armory on Tuesday evening last. The Twenty-second is an exceedingly well-drilled command, having at its head a competent instructor and soldier....The "rehearsal" of the exhibition and competition for prizes by individual members to be given by the Seventy-first, at the Academy of Music, on the occasion of its reception on the 11th inst., was far from being up to the standard of excellence for so public an exhibition....The encampment of the Seventh on the Hudson receives much favor, and at least two companies—second and eighth—have voted unanimously for the proposition. The eighth company, by the way, hold a closing drill at the regimental armory on Wednesday next, on which occasion it expects to parade over one hundred men. The "boys" gather around the veteran commander of this company, Captain Geo. W. Smith....A captain and brevet lieutenant-colonel in the First division, Third brigade N. G. S. N. Y., recently ran and won a foot race with a *Mearsville*....Company K, Thirtieth, we learn, is about to be disbanded, or consolidated with another company. "H" is now the only *Hull* company with a *Strong* first lieutenant in the regiment....The Forty-seventh, we learn, go to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on the 2d of June....A meeting of ex-members of Company G, Thirtieth Infantry, was held at the residence of Lieutenant John H. Hunter, in Brooklyn, on Wednesday evening last, for the purpose of forming a "Veteran Association." The meeting was very satisfactory, and the Guard will meet again on the evening of the 13th, at the rooms of headquarters of the Second division, Court street, Brooklyn....On the 14th, at the monthly meeting of the Board of Officers, an election for field officers will take place in the Twenty-second....A court-martial for the Twenty-second has been ordered by General Ward, Captain Duckworth president. The drill of the left wing of this command (March 31) was an indifferent one, only fourteen files parading....The metronome is used at the drills of the Twenty-second Infantry in order to get the proper cadence, especially in double time.

OUT-OF-TOWN ITEMS.

ALBANY, N. Y.—The Tenth Infantry, Colonel Farnsworth, paraded last week for review and a special full-dress inspection. The regiment paraded some 300 strong, and generally made a creditable appearance. The inspection was conducted by Major G. H. Treadwell, inspector of the Ninth brigade. The Albany newspaper military critics are continually finding fault with the general delay of the assembly of the troops on these occasions, and, as usual, assail the Tenth.

The *Press*, which for some time past has been criticising the lack of promptitude of the Albany regiments, says that on this occasion "the regiment was ordered to assemble at a quarter to eight, but it was eight o'clock before any company put in an appearance, and it was nearly half-past eight before all had arrived." Now promptitude is one of the most important of soldierly duties, and should always be practised. Still, while there is little or no excuse for delays among city regiments which are located in one building, there is frequently one offered among National Guard organizations which are scattered by companies over a town or city, many members living at a great distance from the place of regimental assembly. Under these circumstances members engaged in business until past 6 or 7 o'clock in the evening find little time to partake of the evening meal and don a uniform to be at the armory at the required time. We cannot expect National Guardsmen to sacrifice everything, even to fulfil the gratuitous services they perform as a duty and pastime. The adjutants and first sergeants are more frequently at fault for these delays in formation than the men, and it is therefore but just that critics should endeavor to assist an organization and increase its general promptitude by urging upon these last-mentioned gentlemen more spirit and system in the performance of their duties.

NEW JERSEY.—Aided by judicious support and encouragement from the State authorities, the New Jersey National Guard is rapidly increasing in strength and general efficiency. If other States would only follow New Jersey's example, we should have a volunteer standing army composed of well-trained citizen soldiery ready for any emergency. The organization of the State forces still progresses, and the following additional bills for their government have just passed both houses of the State Legislature, and now only await the signature of the Commander-in-Chief, which they will undoubtedly receive, to become laws:

Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey. That the commanders of brigades are hereby empowered to convene general courts-martial when, in their opinion, the same may be found to be necessary, for the trial of offenders in their respective brigades.

2. *And be it enacted.* That whenever a brigade is ordered to parade, as required by law, transportation for the same shall be provided by the quartermaster-general, upon requisition being made therefor by the brigade quartermaster.

3. *And be it enacted.* That the number of commissioned officers and enlisted men in light batteries shall not exceed one hundred and fifty nor be less than fifty, and that there shall be one captain, two first lieutenants, two second lieutenants, six sergeants, eight corporals, and two musicians to each battery.

4. *And be it enacted.* That the annual appropriation of five hundred dollars to each light battery be increased to one thousand dollars.

5. *And be it enacted.* That this act shall take effect immediately.

FOREIGN NAVAL AND MILITARY ITEMS.

THE British cadets' sea-going training-ship *Bristol* is ordered for a cruise to the North America and West India station.

It is asserted that in the course of the summer a temporary camp of instruction for 30,000 men will be formed somewhere in the south of England.

In proof of the educational spirit which now possesses the British army, we have the fact that the whole of the schools of instruction are so full this month that the applications of many officers who were anxious to join on the 1st instant could not be entertained.

It is said that the entire system of Italian military defenses about to be submitted to the Chamber is based on the supposition that France may be expected, on the first opportunity, to assail Italy. In this belief the mountain passes toward France are to be fortified, the fortifications of Alessandria and Spezia are to be increased, and Rome and Civita Vecchia are to be protected.

THE *Monarch* has been ordered to Portsmouth to fit with the hydrostatic screw-starting gear, described a few weeks since. We are pleased, says the *Broad Arrow*, also to learn that an order has been given by the Admiralty for the fitting of the *Agincourt* with steering gear upon this principle, and that screw-starting apparatus will be added after that in the *Monarch* has been practically tested.

A LETTER from Toulon, published in the *Messenger du Midi* of the 5th of March, states that the disarmament of ships is about to be carried out upon such a scale as to leave in commission only the vessels absolutely necessary for the public service. It is even proposed to suppress the permanent naval stations in distant waters, and to adopt the American system, which is regarded as satisfactory, both as respects national influence and the instruction of seamen.

Forty pounds each is the price offered for artillery horses in England, and there are 2,000 wanted. These, said Mr. Edward Tattersall in a lecture, might be procured, but there would be much difficulty in getting the 2,000 wanted for the cavalry. About 30,000 horses had gone from England to France during the war. In the Crimean war £40 was given; since then the price had come down to £30 for three-year-olds, and £35 for four-year-olds. Then the Austrians and Prussians came into the market, and in seven years, from the ports of Hull and Harwich alone, 14,000 mares were sent off.

In answer to a question as to the status of the British military attachés at foreign embassies, it was explained in Parliament that the salary of the military attachés at Paris was £500 per annum charged in the estimates for the diplomatic service, and that all extraordinary expenses were allowed. Military attachés at Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburg received £500 per annum each, together with £100 a year, for lodging money. It was not a five years' appointment. The present attaché had held the post from October 1, 1858. The military attachés hold the local rank of major-general, that they may have a higher local standing.

TORPEDOES have done nothing during the late war but destroy their friends. In that, however, they have proved themselves pretty efficient and pay no regard to the armistice. Besides the many explosions during the war, another has just taken place at Kiel, where we believe two persons were killed; and now eight persons, including a staff major of engineers, have been instantaneously killed at Montchenin by the explosion of a torpedo inadvertently fired by a soldier who was about to drive a bolt in the same spot on the line of rails in which the torpedo had been placed for the purpose of blowing up the line at a junction.

"AN American" writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette* that "the Navy howitzer 24-pounder is similar to that which the Prussians have found so valuable in the siege of Paris, and has a range of 3-13 miles. It is very light, and considered preferable by the authorities to a steel gun. In its founding, however, the greatest care and experience are required. I have heard the Chief of the Ordnance Bureau of Washington say that in the foundry of the Navy-yard at that place, where alone these guns are cast, the judgment of the foreman of the foundry as to the mixing of the metals was of such value that no gun was cast but under his immediate supervision, a difference of a few minutes between adding the more fusible elements and forming the resulting bronze making a very considerable difference in the strength of the metal for gun purposes, any delay after the perfect fusion and mixture causing vaporization of the more fusible elements to such a degree as to make the composition entirely uncertain. If the foundry at Woolwich has not made the necessary experiments to ascertain the best conditions for melting, mixing, and pouring, it may well be that their guns have not the quality of the Washington gun, which I have heard eulogized in the highest terms by Russian officers of great experience, and seen in use in the Russian navy."

In regard to what must be considered the extremely discreditable appropriation of the private property of Frenchmen by the German soldiers, and of the commercial spirit so often manifested by the Germans as an army and individually, the Paris correspondent of the *London Army and Navy Gazette* says: "The tide of conquest is on the ebb, and is selling off its old stores. One hears of horses being knocked down in the vicinity of St. Cloud for £8, and re-sold in the city a few hours later for £40; of chemises worth ten shillings being parted with for a franc, and of the German authorities offering to hand back the French Chassepôts taken in war for about twelve shillings a piece more than they cost when new. Some articles are disposed of at an alarming sacrifice, and with respect to other things the Germans drive hard bargains. Wonderful tales are told here of the capacious maw of the

enemy, and of the long trains of wagons which are still wending their way in the direction of the Rhine laden with household plunder of every description, from Louis XIV. clocks to pewter ladles." The same writer says of the reforms which are to be introduced into the French army: "A good deal is being written and said about army reform. The military schools are not what they used to be, and the examinations to be passed by officers will be of unprecedented severity. One hears, too, that the lively French soldier, whose delight it is not to be a machine, is to be subjected to some of that discipline before which his braggadocio has succumbed. Baron Stoffel, whose admirable despatches on the state of the German army should have opened the eyes of the Emperor Napoleon's government to the danger of a conflict with Prussia, will most likely be offered an important post at the War Office. Many leaves are now to be taken out of Von Moltke's book, just as Prince Frederick Charles took leaves out of the French book, as is amply proved by his pamphlet 'How to Fight the French.'"

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Versailles, says: "Two days ago I was present in Fort Issy when some of the iron guns were to be destroyed, not by bursting them, but by breaking off their muzzles by a detonating explosion from outside—the only new thing that I have lately seen. The composition used is called lithofracteur, a hybrid word expressive of its qualities as an agent for blasting in mines. It is a patent belonging to Krebs & Co., said to be a form of nitro-glycerine, or at least to have that dangerous material as one of its ingredients. But lithofracteur is not considered dangerous, and it was certainly handled with extreme recklessness by the officers who used it. Small solid cylinders, not at all unlike Abel's gun-cotton in appearance, and about 6 in. long by 1 in. diameter, are carried packed in a tin case, many of them together. When cold the cylinders are solid, but so soft as to be easily broken. When about to be used they are placed in a smaller tin case, and that is put into a vessel of hot water, so that they are warmed, but not wet. They soon become of a pasty consistency, and are kneaded into lumps of any size required. Two pounds weight was the amount used for each 6.5 inch gun. The pasty mass was taken in the hand of the officer, and slapped on to the upper surface of the chase, near the muzzle. A layer of clay was then smeared over it, about 1 inch or 2 inches thick. Through this, and into the mass, was thrust a detonating fuse, which seemed to be simply a copper cap about 1-2 inch long, half filled with detonating composition, the other half fitting on to the end of a piece of Bickford's fuse, or a fuse exactly like it. The officer lights the fuse, 2 feet long, and every one gets under cover. After a few moments of breathless expectation, a sharp explosion is heard, and on dashing hastily out the curious gazers see that the muzzle has been broken off, and lies in several pieces on the ground. Once the explosion failed to break off the muzzle, but cracked the metal both on the upper and lower surface. If the detonating fuse is not used, there is no dangerous explosion, and in this it is similar to Abel's compressed gun-cotton."

THE balloon statistics of the siege, says a correspondent of the *Engineer*, are curious. In addition to five sent on special missions, and one which in curious keeping with its name—*La Liberté*—took French leave and went off unmanned, no less than fifty-four carried correspondence, the weight of the mails often approaching half a ton. Three only were captured, although four fell within the enemy's lines, and one was lost at sea. Of the rest, one fell in Holland and another in Norway. None were injured by shot, though frequently fired at. All attempts to send a balloon back or into Paris from the provinces were total failures. The *Duquesne*, fitted with Admiral Labrousse's screw apparatus, left Paris at three o'clock in the morning of the 9th of January, and fell at eleven o'clock near Rheims, occupied by the Prussians. The four voyagers, with the balloon and the despatches, were however saved. The balloon was afterwards sent to Lille to be repaired for future experiments. The axes of the screw of the *Duquesne* penetrated the soil on the descent and upset the car, nearly killing one of the aeronauts. M. Wilfrid de Fonvielle, who comments on this voyage, says that balloons should not be sent up at night, and adds that there is no danger of an enemy's balls at an altitude of 600 metres. He believes that no attempts at direction of balloons will succeed, except above the clouds. Any differential movement would thus be evident to the observer in the car. The sight of the earth he considers useless for such purpose. The great obstacle which the captain of the *Duquesne* had to struggle against was the continued rotating motion of the balloon. The effect of the propellers was exhibited by the violent twisting of the cords by which the car was suspended from the hoop. M. de Fonvielle proposes to get over the difficulty of the appreciation of the direction of the balloon by a simple apparatus—a circular white dial, with a bar like a sun-dial, to show the deviation from a given diameter of the hoop. M. Janssen also during his balloon voyage invented an aeronautic compass, which enables the voyager to ascertain at any moment both the speed and direction of the balloon. It consists of a graduated glass disc with a hole in the centre; at a certain distance above the central hole is fixed a small eye-hole, and on one of the points of the circumference of the disc is fixed a small compass. The apparatus is suspended perpendicularly outside of the car. The mode of using the compass is not very clear. The following is a literal translation of the report: "An object of any kind on the ground is looked at by means of the eye-hole and brought across the central hole; then with the aid of a seconds watch observe the time occupied by the object in question in passing from the centre to the circumference of the disc. Knowing the height from the earth and the time of the passage, the speed of the balloon may be made out by calculation or with the aid of tables. Finally, the trace made on the glass disc of the passage of the object, compared with the needle of the compass, reveals the direction in which the balloon is advancing."

AN ENGLISH MONITOR.

ENGLAND at length has a vessel which was intended to be a specimen of the monitor system and which embodies the principles of that class of vessel as nearly as the British authorities could bring themselves to copy them. It is the *Glutton*, a double-screw, two-gun turret ship. We condense the following description of her from the *Engineer*: "She is a turret-vessel of the monitor type, and is the first of the kind built for service in the royal navy. Since the Board of Admiralty determined upon her construction several low freeboard vessels of a similar type to the *Glutton*, but much more powerful, have been ordered and are now being built. The *Glutton* was commenced in 1868 at Chatham Dockyard, from designs from Mr. Reed, and under the authority of Mr. Correy. She was founded on the American model, but with this difference, that the errors which were found to exist in the monitors of the United States Navy have been rectified in the *Glutton*.

By increasing the armor-plating above the water-line by means of a large breastwork for the protection of the turret, and by protecting the hull below the water-line with armor plates of considerable thickness, he has given the *Glutton* a more efficient protection than the ordinary monitors, but at the expense of her speed. In addition to this, an unusual step has been taken in plating the upper deck with three-inch iron plating. The object of this is to avoid danger from shells falling vertically upon the deck; but this protection is gained at the expense of increasing the armor of the ship by about 600 tons, or, as Mr. Reed says, by adding armor sufficient to plate the sides of the vessel all round with 9-inch iron and add seven feet to the freeboard. Mr. Reed's view was, as he has shown practically since in the construction of the *Devastation*, *Rupert*, and *Thunderer*, that the speed lost by this additional armor should be regained by increasing the size of these vessels. In the construction of the *Glutton* the Board of Admiralty refused to consent to this, and Sir Spencer Robinson, in a memorandum drawn up to show the position of iron shipbuilding for the Navy in 1869, while admitting that the permission by the Board to construct the *Glutton* was a "valuable concession," protests that she was "compromised by her size."

It is early yet to speak with any confidence about this vessel, for it yet remains to be proved that her stability will not be affected by the heavy breastwork which rises on each side of the hull, and that, considering how small she is for the armor she carries, she really possesses a speed of nine knots an hour. But taking her as she stands, she is, unquestionably, a most powerful vessel. Her freeboard is only three feet in height, and, if necessary, this can be reduced to two feet by the use of water ballast. Her hull above the water-line is plated with 12-inch armor, fastened on to 20-inch teak backing, and with an inner skin plating of 1-inch iron. Below the water-line the armor is reduced to 10 and 8-inch iron. There is only one turret, which is revolving, and contains two 600-pounder 25-ton guns. For the protection of this turret, which is plated with iron fourteen and twelve inches thick, and of the funnel, a breastwork rises on each side six feet above the hull. It is covered with armor-plating twelve inches thick, fastened on to 18-inch teak backing. Thus the guns and gunners are doubly protected from accident. The turret rises seven feet above the breastwork, which allows of the guns being used with ease and freedom. The breastwork gives them the advantage of being used at almost the same height as in a broadside vessel, but with the advantage also of leaving a smaller surface exposed. One of the most important features is that the guns have a clear range in the fore part of the vessel. This gives the *Glutton* superior advantages to the *Monarch* and *Captain* and to any of the broadside vessels; for although she will carry masts they will not obstruct the range of the guns towards the bow. She is double-bottomed, like most of the ships designed by Mr. Reed, and the bulkheads between the inner and outer sides of the ship can be used for water ballast. In addition to her guns she carries an enormous ram, which protrudes eight feet from the stem, and could be used on an emergency with great effect. Her draft is nineteen feet, displacement 4,855 tons.

The first of the monitor type built in England, she is undoubtedly more formidable than any other of that class afloat. In thickness or solidity of mail she is far beyond any foreign attempts, and for strength and rigidity would appear to be perfect. Her stability remains to be proved, but as the strong wind which was blowing, and the consequent liveliness of the water, failed to demonstrate the least perceptible motion to the most scrutinizing eyes, we may trust that Mr. Reed's calculations will be realized with customary accuracy, and that no evil fate will ever happen to this bold idea in naval construction.

MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages should be paid for at the rate of 6/10 cents each.]

UPHAM-CAMP.—At the residence of the bride's father, in Dixon, Ill., April 1, by the Rev. J. H. Brown, Lieutenant FRANK K. UPHAM, First U. S. Cavalry, to Miss SARA E. CAMP, of Dixon.

DIED.

ALEXANDER.—At St. Paul, Minn., March 28, 1871, AMELIA F., wife of General E. B. Alexander, U. S. A.

MARSHALL.—At Charleston, Ill., March 25, 1871, ROBERT, son of J. M. and K. F. Marshall, aged 1 year, 6 months and 11 days.

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